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KENT ON SUNDAY

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IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT

No. 292 April 27, 2008

LOOKING FOR YOUR NEW DREAM JOB? SEE INSIDE FOR OUR APPOINTMENTS SECTION

HUNDREDS ARE DENIED THEIR SCHOOL CHOICE

County council denies primary closures to blame

MORE than 450 children failed to get primary school places of their choice this year – prompting fears the county council was too hasty with its schools closure programme.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

Figures passed to Kent on Sunday reveal the number of children not being awarded any of their three choices of school nearly doubled in the past two years from 1.8 to 3.2 per cent.

Peter Read, an independent education advisor working in the county, said some parents are being offered a school for their four-year-olds miles from their homes.

He said: "Parents are feeling bewildered and angry – they just can't understand why it is happening. Children in rural areas are suffering most from this."

Last year, KCC closed and amalgamated 21 schools across the county in its controversial primary school strategy.

Critics of the strategy included Michael Howard MP, the former Tory leader, who described the rationale behind the plans as "perverse" and accused the county council of misleading the public.

This week, the authority denied there was a link between the strategy and the rise in families unable to get places at any school of their choice.

Dr Ian Craig, director of children's services, said there were still too many places in Kent primary schools. 10,000 remain free, he said.

"This is about parents' views of a popular school," he said. "The fact that parents are told to express which school they prefer means they will tend to apply for the popular schools and more people are applying for them than there are places."

Government legislation prevents

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Opik takes town hall leader to task over tower row

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Homes growth threat as builders stop work

GOVERNMENT targets for the Thames Gateway are under threat after the country's biggest housebuilder suspended work on new projects due to a shortage of mortgage funds.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Persimmon announced on Thursday that it had frozen plans for new builds until market conditions improve.

The company revealed sales on new homes were down 24 per cent and blamed an "unprecedented tightening" in the lending market.

More than 45,000 new homes have been built so far in the Thames Gateway and the Prime Minister Gordon Brown has promised to deliver 160,000 by 2016.

A spokesman for the Department of Communities and Local Government played down fears targets would not be met despite Persimmon's warning that new homes built could fall by nearly a third this year.

"The continuing demand for homes from young families and first-time buyers, and our fundamentally strong and stable economy, with record numbers of people in work, mean the conditions are right for a healthy housebuilding industry in the longer term.

"Therefore, it is essential – and in their own interest – for housebuilders to base their decisions on the economic fundamentals and longer-term trends," he said.

But industry insiders have warned more developers could follow Persimmon's lead.

Medway is the biggest area earmarked for regeneration in the Thames Gateway and 16,000 new homes are planned.

Fluctuations

A spokesman for the Medway Renaissance programme, set up by Medway Council, said Persimmon's current project at Medway Gate, Coxton, was underway and would continue until it was completed.

"Our flagship project Rochester Riverside, which will provide 2,000 new homes, is not going to start for another year. Any economic slowdown is cause for concern but we do not feel affected by this for the moment," he said.

Ashford has been cited as a growth area and 31,000 new homes are planned by 2031.

A spokesman for the town's borough council said Persimmon was already involved in a number of projects in Ashford and these would continue – not affecting any immediate targets.

He said: "There is no reason for alarm. The current housing downturn is unlikely to significantly affect the planned expansion of Ashford in the long term.

"We have a 30-year growth period and there are bound to be fluctuations in the market which will affect the speed of growth during this time".

He said the council's planners were not "unduly concerned" about the current state of the market.

The credit crunch has meant banks and building societies have increased rates on some of their most popular mortgages, withdrawn offers, tightened lending criteria and demanded bigger deposits.

The number of mortgage approvals in the UK during March was 46 per cent lower than last year, figures published this week showed.

But as our sister paper YourAshford reported this week, estate agents in the town are still seeing a demand from first-time buyers.

And improvements to transport links, including the new high-speed rail link, and the new shopping centre are pushing up the buy-to-let sector in Ashford.

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'It is difficult to win'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

more than 30 children being in a reception class.

Mr Read said this made it even harder for parents to appeal against KCC's decisions on primary school places.

"It is very difficult to win because of primary school legislation," he said. "Schools cannot put additional children into primary school unless there are specific reasons."

When parents make their list of preferred schools KCC gives priority to places, first, if the child has a sibling at the same school and second, based on how close the family live to the school.

This means families living close to a popular village primary school could be left travelling further if many of the places are taken up by children with siblings at the school.

Dr Craig admitted it is a complicated system and some parents feel they are missing out.

But he said the decision to shut schools, including five primary schools, had made no difference to the process.

In fact, he said, the National Audit Office penalises local authorities operating at above the 10 per cent extra school places recommended as the maximum by the Department of Children, Schools and Families.

Cllr Mark Dance, KCC's cabinet member for education, said: "The figures show a significant increase in numbers of pupils receiving their first preference, up by more than 300 in real terms. The number of those offered the second preference is also up by almost 120 pupils.

"It is not surprising that when the cohort size increases by almost 700 pupils the more popular schools will receive greater interest and the number of those disappointed will increase."

Dr Craig said the authority knew it would have to cater for 700 extra pupils this year because of birth rates.

He said the number of children applying for primary school places in the country will rise again next year but will then start to drop until 2022 when there will be another surge, according to projections.

"I know someone could say 'my child could have gone to that school [if it was still open]'. But we only closed schools where there were plenty of surplus spaces.

"You can always find an example but they are few and far between and as a general rule there is not a link," he added.

Five schools, Hothfield Village Primary School, The Ripple School in Deal, Doddington Primary School, Detling School, and St Luke's School in Tunbridge Wells, were closed last year. A further 17 were amalgamated.

Drivers braced for fuel hikes

CAR drivers could be spending up to an extra £20 a month at the petrol pumps by September, it is claimed.

And lorry firms could see fuel bills rocket by thousands of pounds, says the boss of a Kent removal and logistics company.

Chrissie Richards, director of The Talking Truck Company in Maidstone, said: "Petrol could reach £1.50 per litre by as early as September, as world oil prices continue to surge to record highs. For many people, this can mean typically spending another £10 or £20 per month on fuel.

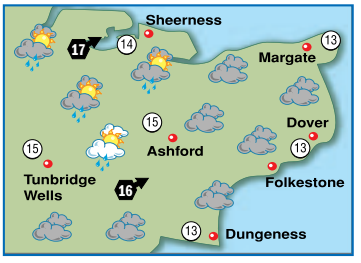
"But for transportation and removal companies such as ours, it can add thousands of pounds per month to our fuel bill."

Her comments came as motorists around Kent were facing pump prices of up to £1.12 a litre of unleaded petrol, with retailers blaming the rises on increases in international oil prices.

The Petrol Retailers' Association said prices were rising because of market forces – the big problem, it said, was that fuel buyers were paying about 70p in tax in every pound spent at the pumps.

The Association of British Drivers said tax levels on petrol was "disgracefully high."

Kent today



TODAY: Cloudy with showers, some heavy. The evening will become drier and clearer. Moderate south-westerly winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).
TONIGHT: Mostly dry with variable cloud cover and clear intervals. Moderate south-westerly winds. Min temp 6-9C (43-48F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	13	55	London	showers	13	55
Belfast	showers	15	59	Liverpool	rain	16	61
Birmingham	showers	15	59	Manchester	rain	14	57
B'mouth	rain	14	57	Newcastle	rain	12	54
Bristol	showers	12	54	Norwich	rain	17	63
Cardiff	showers	14	57	Oxford	rain	15	59
Cork	rain	12	54	Southsea	rain	14	57
Edinburgh	cloudy	15	59	S'hampton	showers	13	55
Glasgow	cloudy	14	57	Southport	sun	–	–
Isle of Man	fair	13	55	Swansea	rain	12	54
Leeds	rain	13	55	Torquay	rain	13	55

Sun & moon

Sunrise 5.34am Sunset 8.13pm
Moonrise 2.25am Moonset 9.58am
Lighting up times: 8.13pm to 5.32am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	03.25	5.5	16.01	5.5	04.30	5.2	17.11	5.3
Margate	04.46	4.0	16.48	4.0	05.45	3.8	17.53	3.8
St Mary's	09.25	4.3	21.56	4.4	10.27	4.1	23.08	4.3

Week ahead

monday A few showers. max 13C min 7C
tuesday Heavy rain. max 11C min 7C
wednesday Showers. max 12C min 7C
thursday Mostly dry. max 13C min 8C
friday Patchy rain. max 13C min 8C
saturday Mostly dry. max 15C min 9C

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MUSIC STARS: The Parlotones are big supporters of Port Lympne

Animal appeal lures South African rockers

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

HAVING grown up in South Africa, indie rockers The Parlotones know a thing or two about wild animals.

It is precisely because they have grown up just minutes away from the African wilderness that the band paid a visit to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park this week, where the protection of endangered animals is paramount.

Singer Kahn Morbee, from Johannesburg, told Kent on Sunday they wanted to lend their support to the park's efforts.

He said it takes just a 10-minute drive from his home to find lion and rhino parks.

He said: "What's cool about [Port Lympne] is that they focus on endangered species and that the intention is to release them back into their natural habitats.

"Whenever you go to a game farm now you see a lot of buck and zebra, but to see the bigger game is quite rare. I don't know if it's because of poaching or because they are nearing extinction anyway."

He said a common practice in South Africa has been to see 'canned lions', where the animals are kept in a restrictive space for tourists to hunt them.

"I don't know if it's still going on but it was a big problem at one stage," he added.

The Parlotones are in the middle of a UK tour promoting their new album Radio Controlled Robot.

It is the eighth time they've come to the UK and Morbee said they use Ashford as their base.

He continued: "It's kind of our home away from home now.

"When I was younger my only real perception of the UK was of London and just that it was a big city. I was quite surprised to see a whole lot of countryside.

"Kent is very, very pretty, obviously in a different way to South Africa."

Morbee said playing in the UK was "humbling" as they are used to their massive South African fanbase.

Even then, he admitted that the country's relatively small music scene means that they only play 500-1,000 capacity shows.

The biggest music festivals attract crowds of 20,000, compared with the 100,000 plus that go to Glastonbury or the Reading and Leeds festivals.

"Unfortunately we're not playing Glastonbury this year, it sounds like it's quite something," he added. "We are playing festivals in Ireland and Switzerland, but maybe we can play Glastonbury in the future."

Remote Controlled Robots is out now from Universal Records.

Tory Howard's free Saga cruise

FORMER Tory leader Michael Howard enjoyed his second free Saga cruise in a year, while other Kent MPs jetted off around the world.

The MPs' Register of Interests, published this week, show Mr Howard and his wife were flown to Tahiti by the over-50s holiday and insurance firm in February before boarding a cruise ship bound for New Zealand.

The MP for Folkestone and Hythe was also taken on a Saga cruise around America last spring. He gave speeches on both cruises.

Roger Gale, Conservative MP for North Thanet, was flown to the Morphou Rally in Cyprus last October courtesy of the Municipality of Morphou.

His South Thanet Labour counterpart Stephen Ladyman was the county's biggest jetsetter. Since the last register was published in October he has visited China, India, Israel and Palestine.

The register also revealed that six Kent MPs employ family members to work for them.

Mr Gale, Mr Howard, Dr Ladyman, Canterbury MP Julian Brazier, Old Bexley and Sidcup MP Derek Conway and Dartford MP Howard Stoate all employ their wives.

MPs have not previously been required to reveal this information.

Big screen hits

KENT filmmakers have been celebrating after sweeping the boards at the London Independent Film Festival.

The top prize – Best UK Feature Film – went to Ruby Blue, a love story starring Bob Hoskins and made by Medb Films based in Ramsgate.

Written and directed by Jan Dunn the film also scooped the Grand Jury Prize at the Washington DC Independent Film Festival last month.

Elaine Wickham, from Medb Films, won the Jury Prize for Best Short, for her debut My Mother at the capital's indie film festival.

Margate resident Simon Welsford's film Jetsam, which was filmed on the east coast of Kent, won Best No Budget Feature Film.

Ms Dunn, of Medb Films, said: "It was fantastic to win, particularly because the prize is a considerable amount of post-production facilities to technically complete the next film."

The filmmakers are still looking for £75,000 to finish The Calling, starring Brenda Blethyn.

FAVOURITE: Keeley Hazell

Magazine readers back 'melon farmer' in survey

BROMLEY model Keeley Hazell has been named the world's third sexiest woman by FHM readers.

In its annual international readers' poll to find the sexiest women on the planet, the 21-year-old was ranked just behind Hollywood stars Megan Fox and Jessica Alba.

FHM described the page three glamour model as a "Kentish melon-farmer".

It said: "The 21-year-old with the nation's finest frontage has spent the last year modelling too-small lingerie, starring in a slightly odd online technology show and making it big in the US."

Former 24 star Elisha Cuthbert came fourth, while Heroes actress Hayden Panettiere came fifth.

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CREATIVE WOMAN: Lib Dem Trudy Dean

PATRONISED: Labour's Angela Harrison

ENCOURAGING: Tory Sarah Holher

Boys' club ballyhoo excluding women

EXCLUSIVE

By JENNA PUDELEK

SPAIN'S new cabinet has a female majority, the French president has enlisted the help of seven 'Sarkozettes' and Silvio Berlusconi has promoted Italian women to positions of power.

So with only six women out of 23 ministers in Gordon Brown's cabinet, it seems Britain is lagging behind its European neighbours.

And in Kent the picture is even bleaker, with no female members in Conservative-controlled Kent County Council's cabinet.

KoS asked the authority's leader Cllr Paul Carter, one of the country's most powerful Tories, why women are so under-represented at a high level in county politics.

His spokeswoman sent a statement, saying: "The council has a female chief whip for the first time in the council's history and also has two female lead members in three of the top jobs in the council, all of whom play a very important role along with the council's cabinet members."

Overall, KCC's gender ratio is 14 female to 70 male councillors; only 16 per cent of councillors are women. Medway Council only improves female representation slightly at 24 per cent.

At district level Kent councils do not fare much better with women making up only 30 per cent of all elected members.

Male bastion

The county will probably not see a 'Carterettes' publicity shot any time soon. But then the Tory party nationally has been slow to catch on to a more equal gender representation in politics.

It has been 90 years since women won the right to vote and stand for Parliament – so why is it taking so long to make politics more representative of the population in Kent?

Trudy Dean, leader of the Kent Liberal Democrats, shared her views on the KCC's male-dominated cabinet.

"There was one female cabinet member, Sarah Hohler, but I understand she wished to stand down from the cabinet, so it may be none of the other female members of the Tory group have wished to hold a cabinet position.

"However, all the evidence shows any group works better and more creatively if there is a balance of men and women in it.

"Only one woman ever making it through to the ten-member cabinet under two leaders makes it look as though no-one is willing to champion that cause and to make that happen," she said.

She said the Lib Dem group had never had a problem recruiting women and the group has had a female leader for the past 15 years.

"Among KCC councillors the number of women councillors has actually declined since I joined in 1985," said Cllr Dean.

"This is a particularly great loss since KCC is responsible for services in many areas, such as educating and caring for the young and the elderly, in which women tend to have more personal experience than men.

"When I try to recruit new councillors, talented women will often say to me they cannot stand the kind of schoolboy ballyhoo we see each week at Prime Minister's question time, in the council chamber," Cllr Dean said.

There is only one woman among the five managing directors at KCC and only 13 of the top 36 posts are held by women.

Cllr Dean said the authority was still a long way from achieving equality.

Other county councils in the South East, which are also Tory-controlled, perform better than KCC on female representation.

Essex County Council has two female cabinet members responsible for the environment and finances. The authority's chief executive is also a woman.

A female member is responsible for children and family services in East Sussex, and West Sussex has three female cabinet members responsible for finance, children and young people and the environment.

The authority also said its female chairman had just stood down after seven years.

Cllr Sarah Holher, a county councillor, served as deputy leader of the council under Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart. She said: "I would love to encourage women to apply and to stand for election in the elections next year. We certainly welcome women."

Cllr Hohler said she fitted in well during her time in the cabinet and that it was useful for the cabinet to have a woman's voice.

She said it was her decision to stand down because she felt new leader Cllr Carter should have the chance to pick his own team.

An Tory insider said: "They don't like to draw attention to the fact there are no women in the cabinet."

Labour chief whip Angela Harrison described County Hall as a "male bastion" and revealed the men's bathroom was decked out in marble, while the women's had been "created out of broom-cupboards".

Cllr Harrison, along with the Tory party's chief whip, Paulina Stockell, were carrying out an assessment of members' facilities when they made the discovery.

Cllr Harrison said: "When I joined in 2005 I was patronised because of my sex. It was an old boys' club and I'm not old and not a boy – you could almost feel them itching to pat me on the head and say 'it's all right dear'."

But she said the gentlemen's club climate was improving and encouraged more women to join.

There is more hope for the future – young women members of the Kent Youth County Council represent 65 per cent of the seats.

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Quotas all at sea

A KENT MEP has accused the Government of putting local fishermen in a "ludicrous position" by allowing them to catch a tiny share of the country's cod.

Sharon Bowles, Liberal Democrat MEP for the South East, said fishermen had been "poorly and unfairly treated".

The European Commission sets quotas for the amount of fish each country can catch, but it is up to the UK Government to say how much can be caught in each region.

Fishermen in the South East are allowed to catch just three per cent of the UK allocation.

Speaking at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Mrs Bowles said: "My intervention is very timely – at a crucial moment when the Commission is revisiting the cod recovery plan including a large chunk of the seas around Great Britain.

"This will be taking greater account of the local differences where cod stocks are more plentiful. I have been promised statistics concerning the English Channel and I will be following this up."

Gay hate charges

A MOTHER and daughter have been found guilty of abusing a gay couple in Kent.

Karen Reeves, 44, of The Halt in Whitstable, was sentenced to 150 days in prison.

Christie Myles, 22, of the same address, received a 24-month supervision when the pair were sentenced at Canterbury Magistrates' Court on Thursday.

The pair carried out a 'campaign of hate' between March 13 and May 17 last year.

They called the men names and Reeves even drove her car at one of them, the court heard.

The harassment of Michael Harris and Shires Crichton, from Kingston near Canterbury, began after the men sided with another neighbour over a longstanding row.

The pair have also been given a restraining order banning them from the men's village and from having any contact with them.

The four-day trial took place earlier this month.

Sittingbourne Community College is working to reduce number of teenage mothers

School clinic is kicking pregnancy out of class

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

SWALE has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Kent.

But a sexual health clinic available to all pupils at Sittingbourne Community College is working to change that.

The weekly clinic offers contraception and relationship advice, emergency contraception and pregnancy testing.

Ann Saunders, deputy head at the school, said that when the clinic opened two years ago it was mostly girls who went in for advice but now it is seeing equal numbers of both sexes.

Teen pregnancy rates are higher in pockets of deprivation across the county, where the self-esteem and aspirations of young women are lowest, according to Kent Teenage Preganacy Partnership.

Asked how the clinic had made a difference, Ms Saunders said: "We have not had a problem with pupil pregnancy… for several years. Our problem was when students left school at 16 and entered into early parenthood.

"We have worked really hard to give them aspirations and to raise their confidence in terms of a future and to delay children."

She was happy to reveal that this year the school has 15 students going on to university.

Ms Saunders said it was important to change the mindset of young men at the school and year nine pupils are now being given relationship and sexual health advice from Charlton Football Club players.

"It has already had a really good impact on their behaviour and maturity. As they become young men it is giving them choices and information," she said.

The girls benefit from less structured and more conversational sexual health and relationship advice sessions, Ms Saunders said.

Ms Saunders, who is the Swale lead for the Pregnancy Partnership, took part in a study of poverty in the area.

It found that eight out of 10 of the families living in poverty had been teenage mothers.

As part of a tutorial on relationships and emotional intelligence the results were revealed to the school's 16-plus students. "It had quite an impact on them," Ms Saunders said.

Carrie Brentnall, the college's personal advisor and intervention officer, said: "It was very thought provoking – you could tell they really empathised and many admitted 'that could be me but it's not going to be'."

The school wants to set up a nursery on site so that young mothers can go back to education.

But teachers hope that the preventative work, including the sexual health clinic, will make a cut in teenage pregnancy rates in the area within three years.

More than 300 pupils access the service every school year. The young people at the school were not embarrassed to be seen queuing for the clinic by teachers or anyone else thanks to a culture of openness about young peoples' sexuality, said Ms Saunders.

"We have a very unique environment – we feel that the relationship we build with pupils is equally as important as academic results," she said.

When Ms Saunders presented the idea for the clinic to the board of governors they asked why the students couldn't just go to their GPs.

"They won't go where adults are to get [sexual health advice] – they prefer to have a young person's clinic that deals with young peoples' issues."

Asked whether any parents had objected to the clinic being sited at the school and available to students of all ages, Miss Brentnall said: "We encourage young people to speak to their parents, we are trying to promote communication between them. We have been really open about it."

Ms Saunders said: "Parents are concerned about their children having sex before they are 16 but they want them to be safe and have the right information."

The Government's Every Child Matters agenda aims to bring more sexual health clinics, as well as other health services, into schools.

Britain's teenage birth rate is twice as high as in Germany and three times as high as France.

Although the county's rate is below the national average, the Pregnancy Partnership is working hard to meet Government targets to reduce it further.

Ms Saunders added: "In this area whether it is a cultural or traditional thing we are enabling young people to see they can delay and have a working life before they embark on parenthood. And that they can avoid the poverty trap by doing so."

Ruth Herron, coordinator of the Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership, said: "We don't want to encourage them to have sex but a quarter of under 16s will have sex, so there need to be services so they can do this in a healthy way.

"There are always opportunities to tell them 'you don't have to continue and you can say no'."

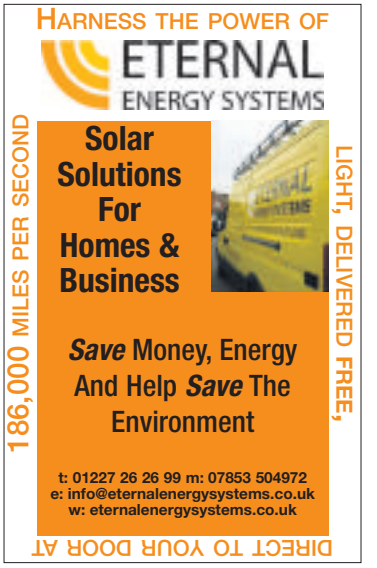
Picture: REX FEATURES

SELF-ESTEEM: Teenage pregnancy numbers are falling in Swale with the help of a special clinic (posed by models)

TEENAGE PREGNANCY RATES
(Rate is per 1,000 females ages 15 to 17)

DISTRICT	2006	2005
Ashford	44.6	43.7
Canterbury	27.4	29.3
Dartford	43.3	38.4
Dover	41.5	32.4
Gravesham	31.9	39.9
Maidstone	40.0	35.1
Sevenoaks	24.0	23.3
Shepway	37.9	44.3
Swale	48.6	53.1
Thanet	55.3	63.2
Tonbridge & Malling	30.7	25.5
Tunbridge Wells	22.1	24.5
Kent	37.1	38
UK	40.4	41.3

Figures from Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership



Teachers' right to strike gets Tories' backing

By **PHIL REILLY**
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THE county council has refused to blame teachers for the strike action that led to thousands of pupils staying at home this week.

The industrial action forced the closure of 17 schools across the county on Thursday, with many more telling all but those facing exams not to turn up.

KCC has been unable to confirm how many pupils were told not to go to school or how many teachers were taking part in the strike.

As with many other public sector workers, most notably the police, teachers are unhappy with a pay settlement from the Government that they claim is "in effect a pay cut".

They have been given a 2.45 per cent pay increase for 2008-09, as recommended by an independent pay review body, which is slightly more than police officers were offered.

Cllr Mark Dance, KCC's cabinet member for education operations, resources and skills, laid the blame for the strike firmly with the Government.

He said that the right to strike was "part of being British".

He said: "Look at what's happening in Zimbabwe, we don't want to be in that situation.

"The criticism has to be levelled at the Government, they made the choice.

Disapproval

"Take a newly qualified teacher in Kent. For a start you've got expensive housing, mortgages are more difficult to get, the repayment of a standard loan is at 4.8 per cent. It all adds up.

"Then you've got rising costs of food and utility bills."

There are approximately 16,000 full and part-time teachers in Kent, around half of whom are NUT members.

The other major teachers' union, the NASUWT, did not take part in the industrial action.

Last month, John Walder, a semi-retired teacher from Canterbury and local NUT spokesman, said the point of the strike was to "demonstrate disapproval of what the Government is up to on the pay front".

Schools minister Jim Knight said he was "disappointed".

"But that is nothing compared to the disappointment of parents, whose children's lessons will be disrupted," he said.

Mr Knight said the Government is determined to maintain teaching as an "attractive, high-status profession".

He added: "Of course teachers must be properly rewarded. But it is because teachers have mortgages too that I know they understand the need for a pay deal that helps deliver low inflation, low interest rates, and a stable economy."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Best kept secret to play Zebra gig

A SINGER-SONGWRITER described as "the Welsh Bruce Springsteen" will be taking to the stage in Kent on Monday.

Martyn Joseph will be coming to the Zebra Bar in King Street, Maidstone as part of his spring UK tour.

The singer, who was described as "Britain's best kept secret" by music magazine Mojo, is promoting his new album, Vegas.

He has previously toured with Art Garfunkel and Kent ivory tinkler Jools Holland and has just returned from a tour of the USA and Canada.

He has had string of minor UK hits including Dolphins Make Me Cry, Let's Talk About It in the Morning and Please Sir, all of which charted in the top 50.

The new album, which is his 29th, has been widely hailed as one of his best yet.

Two of its tracks, Invisible Angel and Things We Have Carried Here, are available to watch on youtube.com.

The show starts at 8pm. Tickets are £15 on the door or £13 in advance from the box office on 01622 744481.

SONG MAN: Martyn Joseph

Party correction

LAST week, we incorrectly stated that Maidstone Borough Council was a Conservative-controlled authority.

Although the Conservatives have the greater number of councillors, no party has overall control of the authority.

Its cabinet is led by the Liberal Democrats in alliance with an independent councillor.

Service for airplane dead

A MEMORIAL is to be held at Biggin Hill Airport for the five people who died when their plane crashed in Farnborough.

Ex-touring car driver David Leslie, team owner Richard Lloyd, pilots Mike Roberts and Michael Chapman and passenger Christopher Allerton died on March 30 when their Cessna Citation One jet aircraft plunged into a house in Romsey Close.

The memorial service will take place at midday on Thursday, May 8, at the airport's St George's RAF Chapel.

It will be followed by a tribute fly-past by a Spitfire.

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Official figures reveal drops in violent crime and criminal damage but drug offences are on the rise

DRUG offences have increased 18 per cent in Kent, according to new figures published by the Home Office.

Kent Police's performance showed an overall improvement with a reduction in crime and increased detection rates. Violent crime is down 14.5 per cent since 2006.

Assistant Chief Constable Steve Harris said: "The latest figures show that we have seen significant improvement in almost all crime categories, detection rates and public confidence.

"I am very pleased with these results which show that the work being carried out by neighbourhood policing teams and Kent Police staff across the board is having a real impact on a day-to-day basis.

"We are continuing with our seasonal Safer campaigns to support the work we are doing. The most recent, Safer Spring, is aimed to tackle burglary and antisocial behaviour and we are already receiving positive feedback about it."

He said the weapons surrender was a success ending last week with more than 1,000 guns, knives and other weapons handed in.

The latest figures show performance for individual forces from October to December 2007.

Compared to the same period in 2006 the figures show all crime has dropped by more than 17 per cent.

However, there were 135 more drug offences. Police said officers were working to target and disrupt drug networks with the help of local communities.

Criminal damage saw a reduction of 18.4 per cent and there were 495 less burglaries committed over the period. Vehicle crime has also fallen by 26 per cent.

More than 9,000 people were convicted, cautioned or given a formal warning or fine and the force's detection rate had increased 3.1 per cent.

More Kent residents have confidence that police will do an 'excellent' or 'good' job, according the figures.

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Tory defector will add 'some meat' to UKIP

THE leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party has welcomed its first MP as "articulate, quite controversial and a bit of a character", ***writes Phil Reilly***.

Bob Spink, the MP for Castle Point in Essex, defected from the Conservatives to join UKIP this week.

Party leader Nigel Farage, an MEP from Downe, near Bromley, said he hoped Mr Spink would give the party more credibility on domestic issues such as health and education.

He said: "He has joined us because he became increasingly hacked off with the Conservative Party on a variety of issues, from the completely dishonest position it has taken on the European constitution to its policies on immigration – the whole gamut."

Mr Farage said that Mr Spink was one of the most hard-working MPs in Westminster and said he would help UKIP to be viewed as a "broad-based party".

Focused

Speaking to the BBC's Five Live Breakfast, Mr Spink said he was looking forward to getting "some meat" on UKIP's domestic policies.

He said: "I voted against the Tory whip 22 times in the last session, on issues such as equality for women on pensions, which I think is a good thing, and on defence issues, and getting tough on crime, issues that really concern the people of this country."

Mr Farage said the party was standing 500 candidates in the forthcoming local elections across the UK in what he described as a "moderate sized effort", but was more focused on the next European and general elections.

There are 12 candidates standing for council seats in Kent on May 1: nine in Tunbridge Wells and three in Maidstone.

Mr Farage added that he had not yet decided if he will stand as a parliamentary candidate in the next general election, but acknowledged it was "a situation I've got to answer pretty soon".

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Government hears KCC's asylum claim

KENT County Council stands a good chance of recouping the £8.3 million it claims it is owed from the Government for caring for asylum-seeking children, according to the authority's leader.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Ten councils across the country, including KCC, have been involved in a long-running row with the Government over more than £30m they claim the Government owes them.

However, according to KCC's leader Cllr Paul Carter, the deadlock seems to be breaking after what he called a "most positive" meeting with ministers on Tuesday.

Although details of how much money would be refunded to the authorities remain unclear, Cllr Carter said he was "very pleased by the body language" of both Liam Bryne, the immigration minister, and Kevin Brennan, the parliamentary under-secretary for the education department.

He said: "It was the first time in many months that we have been able to articulate why we are so upset with the treatment from national government.

"The ministers were very receptive to our presentation and we have agreed to come together in the next four weeks and discuss some solutions to the historic debt and how we will manage this in the future."

Political

The authorities involved in the dispute – Birmingham, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kent, Liverpool (Lib Dem controlled), Manchester (Labour controlled), Oxfordshire, Solihull and West Sussex – organised a meeting to present their case to the House of Lords on Wednesday.

Cllr Mike Eddy, leader of the Kent Labour Group, accused KCC's Conservative administration of using the vulnerable children as "political pawns" in the run-up to local elections.

He said: "It is interesting that it is on St George's Day and just before a whole series of local elections. This is political.

"This grandstanding might be useful in party political terms, but not in getting the job done. Ministers have said if you have got a justifiable claim it will be paid."

But Cllr Carter claimed the ministers would never have agreed to the meeting on Tuesday without the presentation on Wednesday.

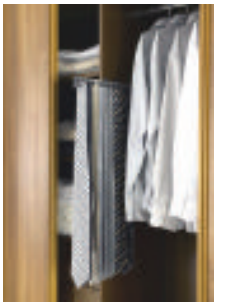
MPs, peers, government officials, refugee and children's charities attended the presentation in the House of Lords to hear about the challenges local authorities face supporting thousands of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Cllr Carter said: "We have a duty of care to these young people and as such Government legislation requires us to provide a range of services for them.

"But Government legislation governing the care that should be provided to them conflicts with the Government's own rules about the grants councils can be paid to provide such services. We need a long-term solution that refunds 100 per cent of the costs to local authorities."

Terry Smith, assistant programme director for Save the Children's protection team, added: "Many separated asylum seeking children arrive in this country alone and deeply traumatised and the care they receive from local authorities is key to their survival.

"They are children first and foremost and their welfare can no longer be compromised by funding constraints."



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Hospital hygiene will come under greater scrutiny

THE health watchdog has launched its biggest crackdown on poor infection control practices in hospitals across the country.

Kent's seven acute hospitals will be inspected as part of the drive to reduce deaths and illnesses from healthcare associated infections such as Clostridium difficile and MRSA.

The Healthcare Commission warned hospital trusts to ensure they are meeting the 11 duties outlined in the Government's hygiene code, which came into force under the Health Act 2006.

A team of inspectors, including specialists in infection control, will carry out the spot checks with help from microbiologists and infection control nurses. Staff at all levels in the trusts will be interviewed.

KOS Media has joined forces with NHS trusts across the county to help in the fight against healthcare associated infections.

Through the campaign people are being encouraged to wash their hands regularly whether they are at home and work or in healthcare centres and hospitals.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust's latest figures show it has exceeded Government MRSA targets – reducing infections of the superbug by 56 per cent over the past year.

Poll reveals our deepest and darkest fears

PEOPLE in the South East are more scared of dying alone than in other parts of the UK, according to a new survey.

The YouGov poll, carried out as a part of a report by charity Dignity in Dying, found that nearly 40 per cent of people in the region said being alone is their greatest fear about dying.

This was higher than anywhere else in the country, with a national average of 32 per cent.

Around 15 per cent said their greatest fear was lack of adequate pain control, while one in ten said it was that their treatment wishes would not be respected.

The survey also found that 15 per cent of people in the South East live alone, which is the same as the national average.

Sarah Wootton, the charity's chief executive, said the survey gave an unique insight into the fears we face at the end of our lives.

She said: "The needs of an increasing population of elderly people living alone must be addressed in the End of Life Care Strategy.

"Everyone, particularly those living alone, must have the option of a personalised end-of-life care plan and advance decision in order to communicate their preferences for treatment and care."

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Sack for town hall boss on 16-month gardening leave

COUNCIL chiefs have axed absent chief executive Mark Bilsborough – 16 months after the £100,000-a-year boss was placed on fully paid 'gardening leave'.

The decision to serve Mr Bilsborough's notice was made by Swale council leaders this week after considering the findings of an independent law specialist's report into serious misconduct allegations.

A council spokesman said: "Exact details of how the dismissal will be dealt with remain a matter for the council and any interim arrangements will be put in place shortly."

Council leader Andrew Bowles said: "I am pleased the designated independent person's report and recommendation has vindicated the action taken by the council to follow up the serious concerns expressed in the whistle-blowing document."

Mr Bilsborough was appointed council chief executive on January 1, 2006.

He was placed on fully paid gardening leave in December of that year, following the serving of the whistle-blowing document.

His last day was December 22 – meaning the decision to terminate his contract was made exactly 16 months after he last stepped into his office.

Law specialist John Bowers QC began conducting disciplinary hearings in January and concluded in April.

His report was filed to Swale council earlier this month.

Independent councillor Chris Boden has called for a public inquiry into the case, saying: "The average resident is confused and angry. What's so wrong is the process has been mired in secrecy and now the public has very, very little trust."

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to page **16**.

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **47-48**.

'Nothing much has changed since the murder of Stephen Lawrence'

RACE STUDY: Prof Carl Parsons

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

A PROFESSOR claims that black children are still being failed by the education system 15 years on from the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

Prof Carl Parsons, an education lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University, has been studying the impact of the Government's reaction to the black teenager's racist killing in April, 1993.

He led the Department for Education and Skill's project looking at the effects of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Macpherson report, which alleged institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police.

The Act came as a result of the Macpherson report and outlawed any kind of racial discrimination in any public authority, including schools.

But according to Prof Parsons, the plight of black Caribbean children in education has barely improved since Stephen Lawrence was killed.

He said that a black Caribbean child is still three times more likely to be expelled from school.

He said: "This is happening year after year after year. We're not doing things that seem to be effective.

"The term 'institutional racism' has not been terribly useful. It displaces the blame away from people who run these places and blames the institution.

"A better term would be 'passive racism'. We are pointing to people in roles who aren't doing things and allowing these things to happen.

"They say black children are achieving at three-quarters of the rate of white children. They are not doing enough to switch on black kids and involve community groups and parents."

His research showed that exclusion rates among black Caribbean children in maintained schools dropped from four times that of white children in 1998-99 to three times in 2004-05, but it has crept up slightly since.

Expensive

Dropout rates for black children of non-Caribbean backgrounds were about 2.3 times that of white children in 2005-06.

It also found that dropout rates were the most disproportional in local authority areas with more than 4,000 black pupils.

Prof Parsons said many authorities have "no preventative strategy" to help black children in secondary schools.

He added: "It is expensive to employ people to meet their needs, but some people are doing it and are successful in reducing and eliminating [dropout rates].

"Interventions shouldn't just happen in schools. Families need support and children need support.

"Some social and cultural habits may be part of this, but the case is we are not changing the outcomes. These kids will still be leaving school with the same difficulties as they had 10 years ago."

The only ethnic group found to have a higher dropout rate than that of black Caribbean students was Gypsy/Roma children, which was more than four times that of white children. However, the size of the population was much smaller.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Fifteen years on and still no convictions for teen's murder

Picture: REX FEATURES

TRAGEDY: Stephen Lawrence was murdered at a bus stop for being black

IT is 15 years ago this week that 18-year-old Stephen Lawrence was murdered in a brutal racist attack at a bus stop in Eltham.

Following the fatal stabbing on April 22, 1993, five men have been charged with his murder.

The cases against Jamie Acourt and David Norris were dropped before they reached court, while Gary Dobson, Neil Acourt and Luke Knight were acquitted at the Old Bailey.

An inquest found in 1997 that Stephen had been unlawfully killed.

An inquiry into the police's handling of the case, conducted by Sir William Macpherson, found that "institutional racism" was in part to blame for its failure.

The Metropolitan Police has donated £10,000 to the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust for its 15th anniversary memorial service.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said that its thoughts were with the family, whom he praised for their "courageous fight for justice".

He said: "The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report and its recommendations instigated immense change in how we investigate homicide and serious crime, how we prevent and detect racist and other hate crime, and the way we work with communities to identify and respond to the needs and concerns of all people."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We are still committted to catching Stephen Lawrence's killers. There are a number of things happening at the moment, including the examination of new forensic evidence."

A marriage ripped apart by brutal death

THE aftermath of Stephen Lawrence's killing and the fight for justice by his parents ultimately tore the couple apart.

His father Neville Lawrence moved to Jamaica following the split six years ago, while his mother Doreen Lawrence remained in London.

The couple re-united for a memorial service at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in Trafalgar Square on Tuesday, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams.

Speaking ahead of the service, Mrs Lawrence said: "For me and Stephen's family, the pain of our loss remains undiminished after 15 years."

Justice Secretary Jack Straw was among those who spoke at the service, saying Stephen's death had left "a nation shamed".

He said: "It should not have taken the outrageous murder of a thoroughly innocent young man, killed for the sole reason that his skin was black and not white to be the catalyst for change which should have happened years and years before that."

Good heavens, boys aiming for the stars

PUPILS at a Kent school are hoping to get their own planetarium by the end of next year.

More than £1 million is being raised to put up the special building which will be able to screen the heavens on a vast ceiling at the Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys in Canterbury.

Bursar Bob Crick said: "We already have a Star Centre which is very popular. The new building will allow us to delve deeper into the universe and be able to show off the stars and planets to a much wider audience. It will be a very immersive experience."

The school's vision is to develop a planetarium, observatory, exhibition area and science learning resource centre as a single facility for both students and staff and along with pupils at schools across the South East and other interested groups.

It aims to enable, through learning about astronomy, cosmology and physics, young people to develop sufficient excitement about science so that scientific inquiry will remain a lifelong interest and they will aspire to further study and future careers in science and technology.

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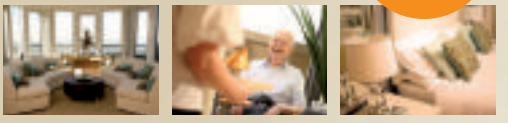

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Up to his neck

A PERFORMANCE artist is set to spend two days buried in the sand at a coastal resort.

Mark McGowan said the stunt is an attempt to save the British seaside holiday and the planet at the same time.

The entertainer will be buried on Margate beach next Saturday and reappear on Bank Holiday Monday.

He said: "The traditional British seaside holiday is in decline and everyone is flying abroad.

"This is due to cheap flights, sunnier climes and bargain bucket destinations."

Mr McGowan said he would be spending 48 hours with a knotted handkerchief on his head and being fed fish and chips to keep him going.

"This is to encourage people to think about their holiday and not to book a holiday abroad – come to Margate," he added.

What a drag

A TEACHER at private school in Kent has been disciplined after he lit a cigarette during a lesson and encouraged pupils to take a drag.

The Canterbury Steiner School, in Chartham, said Jim McIntee intended to "positively discourage smoking".

Some parents reacted angrily after at least two pupils smoked the cigarette during a physiology lesson at the £6,800-a-year school.

In a statement released on Wednesday the school said Mr McIntee had been disciplined but was a "highly valued and very experienced" teacher who recognised his action was an "error of judgement".

The school also admitted that it had breached no-smoking legislation by allowing smoking in a public building. Pupils do not wear a uniform and the school is run by a college of teachers instead on one headteacher.

Tower development is no joke claims MP

ISSUE AT HAND: Lembit Opik with his fiancee Gabriela Irimia

By **NEIL CLEMENTS**
neil.clements@kosmedia.co.uk

SENIOR Liberal Democrat MP Lembit Opik has hit back at a council leader who called him a "national joke".

The unkind remark came from Cllr Mike Snelling, the Conservative leader of Gravesham Borough Council, after Mr Opik criticised plans to build a 32-storey tower in Gravesend.

Mr Opik, the Liberal Democrat's housing spokesman, visited the proposed site for the controversial 120-metre skyscraper, which is the centrepiece of an ambitious £130 million project to revamp the town's heritage quarter, earlier this month.

Out-of-place

Cllr Snelling described his criticism as "a load of rubbish" and claimed it "smacked of desperation by a party with no representation in Gravesham that feels the need to invite what is effectively a national joke to pontificate on Gravesham".

He also had a dig at Mr Opik's relationship with Cheeky Girls singer Gabriela Irimia, saying: "His only claim to fame appears to be a girlfriend who sings dubious ditties."

Mr Opik has since announced his engagement to the Romanian pop star in an interview with Hello! magazine.

In a letter to this newspaper, Mr Opik said Cllr Snelling's remarks failed to "engage with the argument" surrounding the tower.

He said: "While I'm sure we all enjoyed Michael's humorous quip about my relationship with my delightful partner Gabriela, his observations don't exactly do anything to endorse the ridiculously out-of-place development to the public, do they?

"It is significant of the failure of such support for this development that Cllr Snelling declines to focus on the issue at hand."

The tower is just one part of plans which would see St George's Shopping Centre expanded, a new multi-storey car park, a new hotel, restaurants, shops and 600 apartments.

Mr Opik went on to say that he was concerned the project did not take into account local needs such as affordable family housing, and that it would "spoil the natural landscape" of Gravesend.

He also said he planned to meet the developers, Edinburgh House Estates, to share his concerns.

A planning application should be submitted in mid to late May, followed by a public consultation.

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Boris floats airport plans

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

BORIS Johnson will consider building an airport in the Thames Gateway if he is elected Mayor of London, his spokesman confirmed this week.

The Tories' candidate has urged the Government to ditch plans for further expansion at Heathrow as part of his campaign.

His environment manifesto raises concerns about noise pollution and air quality for people already living in and around the country's largest airport.

Mr Johnson said ministers should re-examine plans for a new airport on artificial islands in the Thames Estuary in February.

His spokesman, Giles Bancroft, said: "What he is calling for is no further expansion at Heathrow. The Thames Estuary is an idea he has floated."

Environmental groups have spoken out against resurrecting plans for a major airport in an internationally important wildlife site.

Mr Bancroft refused to say whether Mr Johnson, who lists protecting open space from development as one of his priorities if elected mayor as well as a commitment to meeting climate change targets, had thought of the environmental impact of an airport in the Thames Estuary.

"There is no final plan. What he has said is that he sees the possibility for something east of London. But he has not committed to anything.

"He wants to have a commission look into it. [The Thames estuary] is relatively near London with less population and less houses to fly over."

The current mayor, Ken Livingstone's campaign has said that Mr Johnson's idea to build a new airport in the Thames Estuary "demonstrates not only that he is not serious about tackling climate change, but that he also has little regard for protecting green spaces".

Mr Livingstone is opposed to both expansion at Heathrow and a new airport to the east of the capital.

A spokesman for the RSPB said: "The area is under immense pressure from the needs of development that goes on around the capital. It is unhelpful when ill-considered proposals are thrown into the midst of a very complicated and pressured environment. UK estuaries are of international importance for wildlife."

The county council believes Kent International Airport at Manston could help meet the demand for London's airport growth.

In 2005 an airport was proposed near Cliffe but plans were thrown out because of the harm to the environment and costs.

Mayoral elections are on May 1.

Find more news and sport updated online
www.kentnews.co.uk

ESTUARY BOY: Conservative candidate Boris Johnson, on a visit to Bromley, is considering building an airport in the Thames Gateway if he wins the Mayor of London elections

Churchill's room gets a makeover

ONE of the rooms at Chartwell, the Kent home of Britain's World War Two leader Sir Winston Churchill, has been restored to its former glory.

The National Trust, which owns the property near Westerham, said the original contents of the museum and rooms were on display along with a "brave return to the bold and vibrant" colour scheme of the 1960s.

Lady Churchill worked with the conservation architect Philip Jebb to design the refurbishment of the house ahead of its opening to the public in 1966.

She is thought to have chosen the colour scheme of dark blue walls and red case linings after seeing a window display at the London department store Liberty.

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New vans keep Kent moving

Kent Highways Services are busy working on the county's road network everyday, but you may not always know we're there. That's set to change now, following the introduction of a fleet of 60 new inspectors vans.

The fleet of VW Caddy vans has been introduced to replace the use of personal vehicles by Kent Highways Services inspectors. Currently, inspectors use their own vehicles to carry out regular inspections of the public highway and to attend reports of defects in order to arrange repair works.

This presents safety risks for road users, as well as the inspectors themselves. The only hazard warning and identification on personal vehicles is a single, removeable amber beacon and small sign on the back saying 'Highway Maintenance', making them hard to be seen.

The new fleet of vans will mean that we can improve the way we deliver our services because inspectors will be able to carry more equipment in the vans and carry out their jobs more efficiently as a result.

The new fleet is in line with good working practice set out by the Highways Agency, which means they are a conspicuous colour (white) with clear signing, safety reflective markings and a roof mounted amber light bar.

Being able to clearly identify the vans and inspectors will improve safety in another way too – it will help to combat issues such as fraudulent tradesmen claiming to be part of Kent Highways Services.

We haven't forgotten the environment either. We're always looking for ways to reduce our impact on the environment in our everyday work, so the chosen vans have engines that are rated Euro 4 for emissions and are capable of being run on bio diesel mixture.

Look out for the new vans on a street near you!

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

Streetcar celebrates its first birthday

What do you do if you want to use public transport most of the time, but need a car on some occasions? That's where Streetcar comes in.

Kent's first car club, operated by Streetcar, on behalf of Kent Highway Services, has just celebrated its first birthday.

Two streetcars are already available from outside County Hall in Maidstone, just 100m from Maidstone East train station, and the success of the scheme means that additional sites are coming soon.

The scheme means that residents and businesses in the Maidstone area have access to two VW Polo Blue Motions, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Members of the car club will also have access to VW Golfs, Polos and vans further afield, including a network of 600 cars across Greater London, Brighton, Southampton, Cambridge and Guildford.

Membership of the Streetcar scheme costs £49.50 per year and means you can use a car on a 'pay as you go' basis and avoid the fixed costs of car ownership like parking permits, road tax, MOT and insurance. You also only pay for what you use because you can book a car in 30 minute blocks, so you can be driving around in a new VW Polo for only £3.95 an hour.

It makes a big difference to the environment too, as it's estimated that for every Streetcar in operation, at least six private cars are taken off the road permanently.

For more information about Streetcar, log on to **www.streetcar.co.uk**

Have you seen a pothole?

If so, please report it to Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800

Keeping you up to speed

In 2007, central government asked all traffic authorities in England to review the speed limits on their A and B class roads. In response, Kent Highway Services carried out a pilot study in the Mid Kent area to highlight what the speed limit review would entail for the rest of the county.

The study area consisted of 11 A and B class roads, covering a distance of 120kms, and the main focus was to carry out a judgement of the road environment and assess the appropriateness of the speed limit. We took into account the needs of the motorist and especially the needs of vulnerable road users and the communities living on each of the affected routes.

We carried out in-depth studies into speed profiles, crash levels and the volume of traffic on roads, to check if speed limits were appropriate and to assess if any needed to be changed.

The initial study has now been completed and we intend to expand the programme to a much wider area, with the rest of the county being reviewed by 2011 and all work completed by 2013.

This extensive task may in due course impact on current speed limits and reduce speed related crashes. We will continue to update you on progress and actions relating to the speed limit review.

For more information about the work that we do, you can contact us on **08458 247 800** or visit our website at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

Travel Update

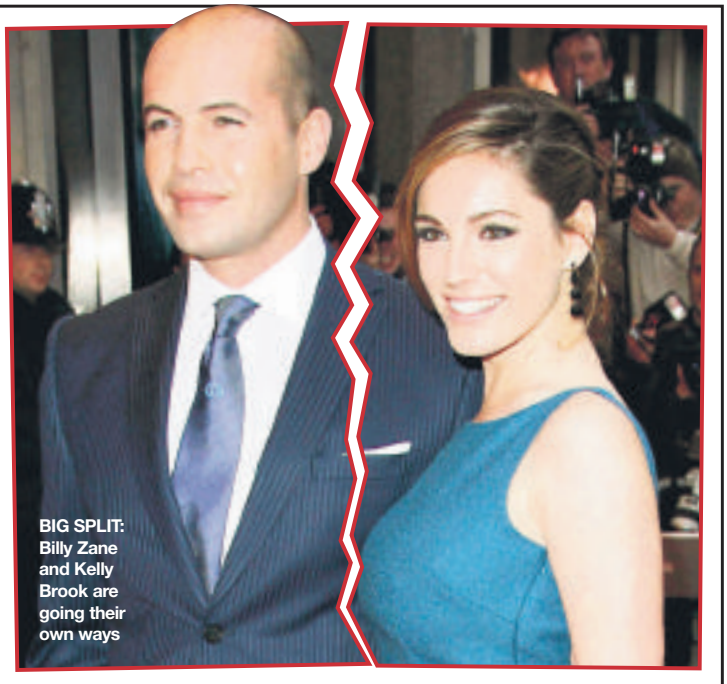
Kent Highway Services

Below are roadworks and §events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

	Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Shepway	current	30.4.08	School Road, Saltwood	Temporary traffic lights - new gas mains
Tunbridge Wells	28.4.08	28.4.08	A228 Colts Hill, Capel	Temporary traffic lights - carriage works
Dartford	28.4.08	7.5.08	Princess Road, Dartford	Temporary traffic lights - new water mains
Sevenoaks	28.4.08	16.5.08	Childsbridge Lane, Kemsing	Temporary traffic lights - new gas mains
Maidstone	28.4.08	13.6.08	B2010 Lower Road, East Farleigh	Temporary traffic lights - new gas mains

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



BIG SPLIT: Billy Zane and Kelly Brook are going their own ways

Love's end

Kent beauty and Hollywood star decide to part company after four-year relationship

By CHRIS MURPHY & NICK AMES

KELLY Brook has split from actor fiancé Billy Zane, her spokesman has confirmed.

The 28-year-old has decided to end her four-year relationship with the 42-year-old Titanic star who is set to move out of the farmhouse in the village of Grafty Green near Maidstone.

Miss Brook, born in Rochester, appeared in public without her engagement ring at the Baftas in London on Sunday.

A friend told this newspaper that, following the death of her father last November, it was time for a clean break.

The friend said: "At the risk of it sounding a little crass, she just wanted time to re-evaluate her life. They had been talking about marriage for months – he wanted to get married and she didn't.

"That sort of pressure was simply too much for the relationship and it fizzled out after a lot of discussion. They finally decided to call it a day about a month ago."

The couple had planned to wed in their 600-year-old country house last year.

But work commitments and the family loss meant the date was continually put back.

Miss Brook dropped out of the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing competition last year after her father Ken, 57, finally lost his fight against cancer. She was a favourite to win.

The friend said: "That, plus having Billy wanting to get married, and was quite determined they should marry, was all too much for Kelly in the end.

"Kelly thinks she is simply too young to get married yet and wants to keep all her life options open for now.

"She is upset at breaking up with Billy, they were great together and, of course, they remain very good friends. But marriage is not for her at the moment and they agreed to part ways."

Miss Brook spoke briefly with reporters at the Baftas about the trauma of losing her father.

She said: "I'm doing okay. It still doesn't feel quite real. I only did Strictly Come Dancing for my dad – he loved it.

"He watched it right up until the end. He was such a big fan."

Miss Brook has not ruled out a return to competitive ballroom dancing, saying she'd love to appear on the US version.

She added: "I'd still love to win it one day."

At the Baftas, Miss Brook got a lot of attention on the red carpet with a vintage Hollywood glamour appearance thanks to a floor-skimming silk navy-blue Suzie Turner gown and white Dior fur shrug and sparkling diamond drop earrings.

A spokesman for Kelly Brook said: "I can confirm they are no longer a couple, but are still friends. There is no one else involved."

New shock treatment saving lives

PARAMEDICS saved the life of a man who had suffered a massive heart attack by using a new technique.

Ambulance staff Des Lacey and Martin Pitchers came to the aid of 54-year-old Graham Coomber, from Tonbridge, after he had the heart attack shortly after starting work at a garage in Heathfield.

They used a procedure called Protocol C, which involves delaying the use of a defibrillator to deliver an electric shock until after two minutes of chest compressions.

Mr Lacey said that without using the new procedure the outcome would have been "very different". The incident happened last July.

The South East Coast Ambulance Service has named cardiac arrest as one of its main priorities and claims that Protocol C, which was first used by paramedics in Brighton, will have an impact on survival rates.

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Smuggled fags are a core issue

ELEVEN pallets of apples used to disguise 4.6 million cigarettes being smuggled into the UK are being donated to animals at two parks.

Officers from the newly formed UK Border Agency handed over the fruit to the Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks in Kent.

Officers seized the illegal smokes when they arrived on a lorry at Dover docks.

The lorry had arrived on a ferry from Belgium via Calais and the consignment was destined for an address in East Kilbride, Scotland.

The cigarettes were branded Goldmans and were packed in 15 pallets neatly placed behind the pallets of Gala apples.

The driver, a 28-year-old man from Northern Ireland, was arrested and later released on bail until June 11. Inquiries are continuing.

Customs spokesman Bob Gaiger said: "We are delighted to donate these apples to the animals at Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks.

"Hopefully this will prove a valuable resource for the park and greatly helps us dispose of these perishable goods in a way that supports the environment."

Energy poverty

ONE in every three South East families is living under the threat of going beneath a 'Green Line' – unable to afford energy efficiency measures in the home.

Research carried out by the O2 communications company in conjunction with its Energy Saver Fund found four out of five – 83 per cent – of the region's families are concerned about their home's energy efficiency.

But, although they face a 25 per cent increase in their gas and electricity bills, one-third – 31 per cent – said they could not afford measures to increase energy efficiency.

In addition, 44 per cent of lower-income respondents felt they would only consider energy efficient measures if they were more affordable and one in 10 felt it was something only higher earners can afford.

County Hall's missing important documents are found 'in a drawer'

Councillors' business interests revealed

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

THE county council has managed to find important documents relating to possible conflicts of interest by county councillors.

This newspaper revealed that records of company directorships and other contracts or transactions by senior councillors were incomplete earlier this month.

Officials said this week they found the missing paperwork "in a drawer or a filing cabinet" in County Hall.

We checked the records after Tory councillor Mike Snelling spoke during a debate on KCC's controversial commercial activities – and failed to declare he was a director of one of the council's trading companies. Many businesspeople in Kent believe the county council is muscling in on their territory by operating in the commercial realm.

Opposition politicians have accused the Tory administration of lacking transparency over its commercial activities and of being "incompetent, unaccountable, defensive and secretive".

KCC has failed to answer a series of Freedom of Information requests from this newspaper about its commercial activities.

Examination of the new documents reveals that Cllr Snelling is a non-executive director of KCC's holding company Kent County Trading Ltd and its main trading company Kent Top Temps Ltd.

He is also non-executive director of Kent Facilities Management Ltd, Kent County Supplies Ltd and Invicta Services Ltd, which is not yet trading.

'Genuine mistake'

Cllr Snelling is not paid for his positions. Records also show that he holds more than £25,000 in shares in the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Alex King, KCC's deputy leader, said that Cllr Snelling made a "genuine mistake" in not declaring his interest.

The records also showed that cabinet member Cllr Graham Gibbens is a director of business consultancy firm Agilis Ltd.

Cllr Roger Gough is a research director for local government think tank Localis, while Cllr Mark Dance runs Mark Dance Builder and Mark Dance Glazing, and Cllr King runs consultancy firm The King Partnership Ltd.

Cllr Mike Eddy, leader of the Labour opposition, carries out freelance and consultancy work as a writer, translator, business adviser and archaeologist.

Council leader Cllr Paul Carter's most recent records, updated in 2005, show he is co-director of Carter Consultancy and has interests in Farley and Co plc, The Decorating Centre Ltd, Pallola Ltd, Kontona Ltd and True Valley Ltd.

Councillors are only obliged to update their registered interests if they have anything to add or remove.

Following pressure from this newspaper, KCC chief executive Peter Gilroy ordered all councillors to urgently report back with details of their outside interests.

Cllr Eddy said he was "peeved" the documents had not been kept together.

He said: "I am also relieved because now we can get on with the business of running KCC rather than faffing around in the backs of drawers."

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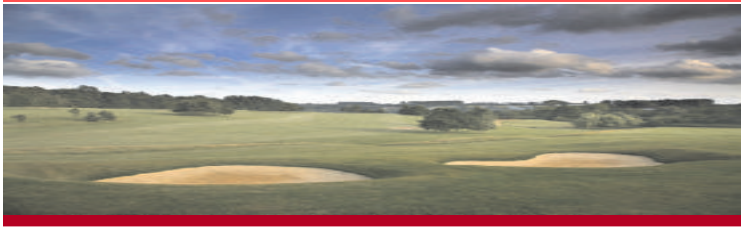

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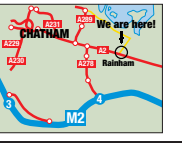

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Safari art builds an orphanage

AT HOME: Some of the children who now live in the orphanage in the village of Mtendere in Malawi

By **PHIL REILLY** phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO years ago, a Kent travel writer was sitting in a bar in a Malawian village when he began talking to a man who was struggling to care for local orphans.

The man and his wife were doing all they could to support the children, he was told, but they did not have even enough money to put a roof over their heads.

David Wise, who runs the Urban Fox arts group in Medway, was so struck by the conversation he resolved to help.

Flash forward two years and a fully functioning orphanage is operating in the village of Mtendere, home to 160 children.

Mr Wise, 40, joined forces with Arts Safari, a company that arranges painting trips across Africa, to put out together collections of their artists' work to raise money for the orphanage.

The first edition of the Art Safari Sketchbook raised about £2,000, which was enough to fund the building.

Mr Wise told KOS Media the idea came to him "over a beer" as he sat in the Malawian bar.

He said: "I thought that Art Safari clients would like to see their work in a book and maybe the profits would be enough.

"£2,000 doesn't sound like much but it is plenty enough in Malawi."

Getting permission for the project proved complicated as they needed the approval of local, regional and national tribal chiefs, but eventually they were able to arrange for local workers to build the orphanage, which opened last autumn.

It has running water and kitchen facilities, and has also started a day-care centre for the villagers.

The latest edition of the sketchbook has raised a further £600 which will be enough to pay for food for the children for the rest of the year.

Mr Wise said he hoped the orphanage would soon be self-funding.

Arts Safari is using the village as a holiday stop for its artists, who travel to Africa to paint the landscape and the wildlife.

The villagers hope to raise enough money to keep the orphanage going by producing goods and souvenirs to sell to the tourists.

Mr Wise added: "They make things like T-shirts, which tourists like and pay quite well for. Someone may pay £10 for a T-shirt, which is not unreasonable, but in Malawi £10 is a week's wages. If they can sell one or two per week it could really work."

The next Arts Safari Sketchbook will go on sale at about Christmas time and should pay for food for the next couple of years.

Another problem Mr Wise encountered in Malawi was the plight of rhinos, which have been poached to the verge of extinction.

He said that any money raised beyond what was needed to pay for food at the orphanage would go towards bringing a female rhino to the area in the hope of helping its dwindling population to breed.

Malawi was once home to thousands of rhinos, but there are only 12 left in the country, nine of which are male.

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RSPB launches campaign to save birds of prey from extinction

Stop the slaughter before it's too late

AT RISK: A hen harrier in flight Picture: RSPB

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to stamp out the slaughter of large numbers of birds of prey across the country.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) said that every year birds such as golden eagles, hen harriers, goshawks, buzzards, red kites and peregrine falcons are illegally killed.

Hest Phillips, from RSPB South East, said: "Kent is a great place to see birds of prey in winter, including hen harriers, which face terrible persecution elsewhere.

"It's outrageous birds of prey are still being killed illegally. The skies are owned by no one, but a callous few want to deprive the nation of some of our most charismatic wildlife."

The charity said that "unscrupulous" gamekeepers and shooting estates were responsible for killing the birds.

Mr Phillips said people in the county could help protect Britain's birds of prey by the joining the campaign and reporting suspected killings of the birds to the police.

Despite coming close to extinction in the 1970s a close cousin to the hen harrier, the marsh harrier, can now be found in Kent, the charity said.

The north Kent marshes are an important breeding site for these birds and the reserve at Dungeness saw marsh harriers breed for the first time last August.

"As Kent residents are lucky enough to share their county with these fantastic birds we are hoping they will add their voice to our campaign, so that the rest of the country can enjoy the inspiring birds as they do.

"We will only improve the national fortunes of hen harriers and other birds of prey with the help and commitment of moorland owners and managers.

"For decades, we have worked to improve the situation, but in large areas of upland Britain progress has stalled and in some is worsening," Mr Phillips added.

To join the campaign visit www.rspb.org.uk/birdsofprey.

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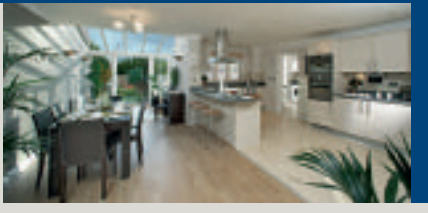

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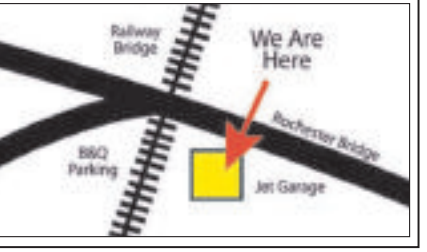

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HOMECOMING: SS Dover in its heyday; the ferry could be on its way back to Kent

Old ferry may be centrepiece for new-look Dover docks

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

IN ITS 1960s heyday the SS Dover was one of the biggest ferries on the cross-Channel routes.

It has since been eclipsed by much bigger vessels, such as the huge modern P&O, SeaFrance and Norfolkline ships that sail between Dover and the Continent.

The SS Dover then found a new lease of life as a floating nightclub on the Tyne.

However, it is now sitting idle in a Hartlepool dockyard, but one former ferry worker wants it to return to the town that gave it its name.

Andy MacLean, a shipping consultant and former assistant purser on the SS Dover, wants it to become a centrepiece of the Port of Dover's new-look Western Docks.

Dover Harbour Board is investing around £300 million in redeveloping the docks, and Mr MacLean thinks it could be used as a floating hotel and conference centre.

Part of the redevelopment will see the current marina moved from the Wellington Dock, which is to be surrounded by new retail and accommodation units and a 'landmark tower' that could house port controls.

Mr MacLean said this would be the perfect site for the ship.

Casino

He said: "I think she would be ideal for the dock, and a great symbol of the port's heritage.

"She is a size that could hold a small hotel in her, or a conference centre or a museum of maritime life at the Port of Dover. Dover Museum could be involved in it."

A DHB spokesman said it would be interested to see a business proposal for the ship's possible relocation.

He added: "We would have to consider any application to moor the vessel in the context of the overall redevelopment plans for the Western Docks."

If she were to find her way to Dover it would be the last port of call in a long and varied career for the 3,600-tonne ferry.

Built in 1965 by Swan Hunter of Newcastle, she sailed from Dover as part of the British Rail fleet until 1969.

She was then renamed the Earl Siward and began operating on the Irish Sea.

After a stint in sunnier climes sailing between the Athenian port of Piraeus and Haifa in Israel, she returned to the Tyne river in Newcastle.

There she became a floating nightclub, later moving to Middlesbrough and given the James Bond-esque name Tuxedo Royale.

She was to become a floating casino and was given a £2.5m re-fit, only for the plan to be scrapped by the local council in 2006.

Since the she has been moored in Hartlepool next to the US Navy's obsolete 'ghost ships' that are waiting to be scrapped, where she resides to this day.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Gangs target heavy machinery in thefts

KENT Police has joined forces with the construction, farming, insurance, security and transport industries in a bid to tackle the theft of heavy machinery.

The move comes after specialist gangs have been stealing expensive equipment from building sites, farms and lay-bys.

Inspector Roscoe Walford said: "Roadworks last longer when machinery is stolen causing traffic delays and diversions.

"This affects people taking their children to school, shoppers, commuters and people generally going about their daily lives.

"People find it harder to get builders and other tradesmen to do work for them because insurance companies demand high premiums or won't insure businesses because of the increasing number of claims they make.

"If businesses cannot get insurance, people can lose their jobs."

Heavy machinery including excavators, forklift trucks, grass cutters and tractors can cost as much as £300,000, which is why gangs are targeting them nationally, police said.

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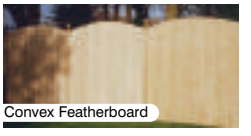
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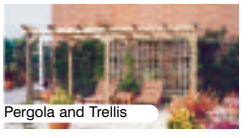
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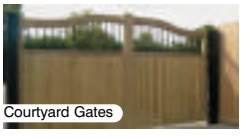
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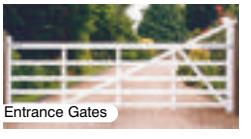
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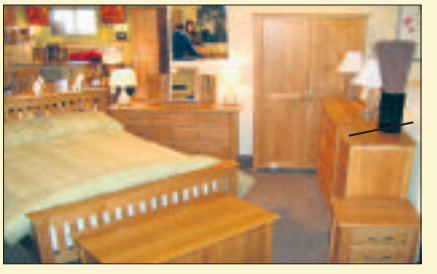

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Train delay probe

EUROSTAR has launched an investigation into a nightmare train journey that took 11 hours to get from London to Paris.

More than 600 passengers found their journey disrupted by delays caused by "technical problems" last Friday evening and Saturday morning.

They left St Pancras at 9.05pm, but were forced to swap trains in Lille, but the train then broke down to the north of Paris.

The company has launched an internal investigation into the events.

Film star waits for return to Zimbabwe

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

THE crisis in Zimbabwe has made it a no-go area for many people who love the country, not least Mackenzie Crook.

As a child, the Dartford actor, who made his name as Gareth in The Office, went on holiday to the country where his aunt owned a farm.

However, it was seized under President Mugabe's land reforms and Mr Crook, 36, has not been back to the country for a long time.

In an interview with The Times, he said he "can't wait" to return once the dictator has finally lost his grip on power.

He said: "I haven't been there in about eight years and, obviously, the family farm was taken a few years back

"It was my favourite place on Earth. It's heartbreaking what's happening to the country, and I'd like to be more vocal about it, to speak up about it. But I've still got family there and I don't want to stir anything up."

It is now nearly a month since Zimbabwe held its election and no formal results have been announced.

Opposition candidate Morgan Tsvangirai has claimed victory but Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party has insisted on a re-count that many fear will be rigged in the dictator's favour.

It is also feared that any re-run of the vote will lead to widespread violence and voter suppression, reports of which are already coming out of the southern African country.

SPEED: Mackenzie Crook starring in Three and Out where he plays a London Tube driver

Back in the UK, Mr Crook is promoting his new film, Three and Out.

The Pirates of the Caribbean star plays a London Tube train driver who has two people fall under his train in quick succession.

He is told that if a third were to die under his train he would be retired with 10 years' pay, and so he sets off to find someone suicidal to do the deed.

Poignant

It also stars former Gravesend schoolgirl Gemma Arterton, who also has a major role in the forthcoming James Bond film, Quantum of Solace.

Mr Crook said although the film's poster makes it look like a comedy, it is in fact "a lot more poignant".

"Obviously they didn't want to flag up the poignancy, but I hope that people don't go along expecting a zany comedy, because it's quite moving at some points."

The film has not proved to a hit with members of the train union Aslef, who protested and handed out leaflets outside the film's premiere in Leicester Square this week.

One member shouted to the star: "Is there comedy in dying under a train?"

Mr Crook reportedly responded by saying: "Have you seen the movie? Then you don't know what you're talking about."

He also revealed that he has tried to distance himself from his best-known role as Gareth Keenan in The Office, a nerdy part-time Territorial Army soldier.

Mr Crook has grown his hair long and wears diamond-studded earrings, which he said was "to get as far away as I can from Gareth".

He added: "I've probably gone too far the other way – I've never stood on a skateboard in my life – but ever since The Office it has been me trying to get away from Gareth."

Three and Out opened in cinemas on Friday.

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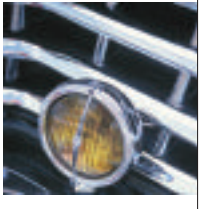

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SUZANNE Lucas took this photograph of Canterbury Cathedral, shrouded in mist, during an early morning walk this month.

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TEENAGE thugs sprayed a student, 23, with a fire extinguisher and beat him up, fracturing his cheekbone. Police are appealing for witnesses after the attack, near Toddler's Cove, in Canterbury at 7.15pm on April 12.

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A WOMAN has been taken to hospital after her car was in collision with a Kent Police vehicle responding to an emergency call. The 25 year old, who was driving a Ford Ka, was taken to Medway Maritime Hospital after the crash last Saturday at around 1pm on Maidstone Road, Chatham. Police said her injuries were not life threatening, and the two officers in the police car escaped injury. The road was closed until around 3.15pm and an investigation into the collision was launched by investigators.

'My disabled child is being neglected by local authority'

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

AS the father of a 12-year-old girl with a mild learning disability, Kevin Wales said he would like nothing more than for her to be educated in a mainstream secondary school.

But he said there are not enough resources available to make that a reality in Kent schools.

Mr Wales and his wife, Theresa, live in Snodland with their daughter, Laura, who has Down's syndrome and goes to the Discovery School in Kings Hill.

The couple wanted Laura to go to Broomhill Bank Special School for secondary education, but Kent County Council wants to re-designate the school to cater only for children with the most severe, profound and complex disabilities.

Mr Wales, 39, said: "I was a supporter of mainstream inclusion for those children that were in a position to cope. Certainly, from the social aspect mainstream has a lot to offer at primary level – hence my daughter is in mainstream.

"However, the rigid structure of the national curriculum and the complete lack of resources made available to mainstream schools to adequately cope with special needs let alone provide the education they deserve means that local authorities are seriously neglecting our children."

There was overwhelming objection not only from parents and teachers but from other schools in the area, healthcare professionals and the local Tory MP, Greg Clark, over KCC's proposals to re-designate Broomhill Bank in Tunbridge Wells.

The decision has now been left to the independent School Adjudicator, which is due to be revealed by the end of the month.

Mr Wales said: "The local authority's not listening to the people."

He said that the couple feel "worn down" by the whole system and that without Broomhill Bank his daughter has little other option for secondary school.

"I would love for her to be educated in a mainstream environment so she was exposed to 'normal' kids, and they were exposed to her, and that would mean greater acceptance.

"But that's in an ideal world, in reality that will never happen because there just aren't the resources."

The future of Broomhill Bank was debated in Parliament in April last year. Mr Clark presented a case why the school should not be changed as supporters watched from the public gallery.

KCC wants the school to admit boys and axe a unit which caters for girls aged 16 to 19.

But education minister Parmjit Dhanda said the Government could not dictate what the outcome should be.

Mr Wales said: "The local authority is having difficulty providing an adequate education for children of all abilities across Kent. Children diagnosed with complex learning difficulties (CLD), such as autism, are becoming a disruptive element in mainstream.

"KCC's answer is to re-designate all the special schools to CLD and place those that are not disruptive with mild learning difficulties into mainstream schools.

"The issue I have with this is the vulnerable position this then puts these children in and the fact that the resources put in place are woefully inadequate to provide an appropriate education for them."

He said his daughter's statement of special educational needs (SEN), which is a legal document, entitled her to 30 hours one-to-one teaching support a week but that she only received 25, because of the school's funding restraints.

Laura is also supposed to receive occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and physiotherapy. Because she does not, Mr Wales, who works for a military research and development company, funds the therapy himself.

He said: "This I do because once this time is gone you cannot turn the clock back. If I do not help her now then she can never regain it and consequently she will become a greater burden on the state – something this Government is trying to prevent.

"Unfortunately, the policies put in place by this Government mean that there will be a lot more people who will be more reliant on the state than they may have been if adequate resources were targeted now."

Cllr Chris Wells, of KCC, said he would be happy to discuss Mr Wales' concerns with him. He added: "It is not uncommon for families to feel that their own immediate experience is reflective of the service as a whole. Like everyone else, there are times we could learn by experience. However, most children receive the right support."

Find more news and sport updated daily online
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The cost of supermarkets

CONCERNS have been raised that "urban food deserts" will be created if out-of-town supermarkets continue to dominate the food industry.

Researchers in Canada coined the phrase to describe how city-dwellers on low incomes have poor access to healthy and affordable foods.

The Forum of Private Business (FPB) said the study, carried out in London, Ontario, found smaller food shops were being forced to close because of large supermarkets.

It warned that the same effect could soon spread to cities and urban centres across the UK.

"This study highlights some of the unforeseen impacts of these hypermarkets," said Matt Goodman, of the FPB.

"It seems we don't fully understand how opening these stores impacts on a community's ability to support the people who live and work there.

"The Government must act to help foster sustainable communities in towns and cities across the UK, and promote local retailers and local produce."

The Competition Commission is due to publish the results of an investigation into inequalities in the groceries market.

It has found already that since 2000 sales in supermarkets have grown by 26 per cent.

A PRISONER due to face armed robbery charges has escaped from police custody. Tony Turner was being transferred from Pentonville Prison in London when a car pulled up beside the prison van and three armed men threatened the guards. The Metropolitan Police has launched an appeal for help to trace him but have advised people not to approach him and dial 999 immediately if he is spotted. Police said there have been no sightings since he escaped on April 2 but believe he could turn up in Kent, Essex and east London. He is d white with receding brown hair and green eyes.

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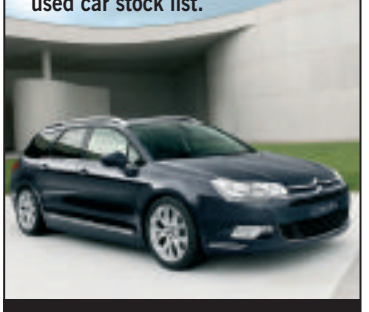
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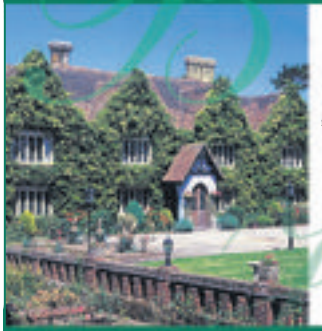
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WOMEN for MEN

LIVELY female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555 TXT

SINGLE mum of two, 29, bubbly, bright, 5ft8, brown hair, green eyes, size 14 and curvy, seeking tall, muscular, outgoing guy for socialising and more. Box 438300 TXT

FUN, flirty female, nearly 30, petite with dark hair, bored of being single, seeking someone to take me out and show me a good time. Box 895349 TXT

CALLING all knights in shining armour; damsel in distress, 30, needs rescuing. I can't guarantee love, but can guarantee laughs. Box 894062 TXT P

LOVELY scouse female, 29, 5ft1, brown hair blue eyes, fantastic SOH, after some fun and laughs, so if that's you let me know. Box 438364 TXT

SINGLE Mum of 2, 35, great SOH, works full time, seeking male with GSOH, fun-loving and romantic, for possible relationship. Box 438417 TXT

HONEST, single, outgoing female, 31, 5'11", loves to go out and stay in with good company, dvds etc, WLTM similar male, for friendship and more. Box 927816

HI I'm 33, from Canterbury, non-worker as have heart problems, looking to meet someone who's kind, honest, loving and affectionate for romantic times. Box 436785 TXT

MUM of 1, I'm 5ft4, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH. I like keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559 TXT P

OUTGOING, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, Tonbridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107 TXT P

DIVORCED, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 813930 TXT P

ATTRACTIVE black female, 36, 5ft7, slim-medium build, short dark brown hair, brown eyes, single Mum, seeking male 36-40, honest, kind, caring, for potential romance. Box 439329 TXT

EASYGOING female with GSOH, 36, enjoys many things - going out, staying in, seeking a nice, genuine guy for lots of love and laughter. Box 437913 TXT

I'M an attractive, dark-haired female, 36, who enjoys cinema, coffees, theatre and socialising, seeking a fun, caring, considerate, romantic gent, for a chat and more. Box 436807 TXT

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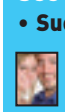

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BLACK female, 32, 5ft8, likes cooking, reading, going out, WLTM a nice man 34-50, down2earth and fun to be with, to find out more. Box 438585 TXT

31Y/O Chinese girl, 5ft4, slim, no children, seeking tall, white, loving, caring, all-Eastern male for serious relationship. Box 438931 TXT

UPBEAT girl, 31, bored silly and just looking for friends to go out and have a laugh with, nothing else. Preferably students in the Canterbury. Box 895165 TXT

HI! I'm Cheryl, 31, 5ft3, blonde, size 10, have 2 girls, I like walking, the gym and socialising, seeking a similar male for potential partnership! Box 437744 TXT

TALL, black, pretty female, 31, new to the Chatham area, loves watching football, shopping, travel; seeking tall, white, loving male 34-47 for LTR. Box 437778 TXT

SINGLE Mum, 30, 5ft2, short brown hair, petite, loves pubs, clubs, eating out, nights in, seeking Mr Right for friendship, maybe more. Box 437895 TXT

LIVELY, attractive female, 32, 5'5", looking to meet that someone special to share life, laughter and love. Box 429124 TXT

SINGLE Mum, 32, cuddly larger lady, 5ft8, dark brown hair, seeking someone to have fun, a dance, some drinks, meals and more with. Box 438941 TXT

32YR old woman, 5ft9, brown hair, curvy figure. I enjoy having fun and a laugh, and WLTM nice, kind gent. Box 439402 TXT

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 TXT

SINGLE mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 406670 TXT

HI I'm 37, 5ft8, mousey long hair, grey eyes, N/S, large bubbly lady, love pubs, country walks, bird-watching, seeking kind, tactile, N/S gent, possibly romantic! Box 435674 TXT

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 TXT

LOVELY single Mum, 38, 5ft4, blonde, slim, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLTM similar male for fun and laughter, maybe leading to LTR. Box 372889 TXT P

CUTE, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 TXT

ATTRACTIVE 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 TXT P

38YR old single mum, slim, long hair, love rock music, concerts, bikes, in need of attention, love and respect. Box 897114 TXT P

MANDY, 38, lovely brunette, petite & slim, very tactile & bubbly, professional mum, WLTM honest, romantic N/S man. Box 432639 TXT

KENT female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 TXT

HONEST lady, 40, slim, like walks, cinema, looking for nice man to share quality time together and cuddles. Box 437940 TXT

DECENT 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating & having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664 TXT

BUBBLY, separated female, 40, slim, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895246 TXT P

HI, I'm a fun-loving woman early 40, 5'1", curvy, enjoy eating out and cooking to walking, looking for man for happiness. Box 894398 TXT

41YR old female, separated with 3 children, medium build, dark hair, seeking a male to share life with again who enjoys socialising, cinema, music and holidays! Box 437639 TXT

BUBBLY 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLTM a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 TXT

I'M Caroline, 42, single mum, likes having fun, eating out, wine bars, swimming, looking for someone for something meaningful. Box 430952 TXT

42-YEAR-OLD female, 5ft7, slim, down-to-earth, normal! love bowling, cinema, clubs, seeking a male, 40-55, for friendship/more! Box 436163 TXT

MUM of two, 42, 5ft4, blonde hair, brown eyes, medium build, loves eating out, staying in, holidays, seeking male 37-45 with similar interests for love. Box 438349 TXT P

TALL, outgoing lady, 43, large build, newly settled in Kent, needs to spread her wings and meet a nice chap! Let's chat! Box 895908 TXT P

FUN-LOVING, affectionate brunette, 43, size 12, N/S, separated amicably with 2 lovely kids, enjoys keeping fit. Seeks good-looking, slim, fit, romantic male. Box 814378 TXT P

BUBBLY female, 41, 5'2", N/S, likes pubs, restaurants, cinema, GSOH, interior design, seeks like minded, fun male for good times. Box 822703 TXT

HARD-WORKING female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 TXT

ONE woman, 45, no lies, one tie, honest, warm and kind. Are you tall, honest, single, motivated, genuine? If so get in touch... Box 918163 TXT

NATURAL blonde lady, 45, living in Hove area, WLTM genuine, professional, successful guy to share good things in life. Enjoy walks, travel, walks, countryside etc. Box 439391

44YR old female, blonde, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810 TXT

PETITE, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTM N/S man to share things with. Box 429682 TXT

HI, I'm 46. Music, laughter, sensitivity, and love, I guess that's what I want, but with someone special, are you him? Box 156956 TXT P

FRIENDLY, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, pubs, music, eating in/out, own home/car, smoker, looking for honest man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 823441 TXT P

SALLY, 46yr old woman, small and slim, brown hair with hazel eyes, likes music, films, animals, days outs and snuggling on sofa. Box 893566 TXT

CARING, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redhead. Likes cinema, theatre, walking. WLTM male for fun and friendship. Box 895928 TXT

I'M Dawn, 47, quite shy and reserved, looking for someone special; I'm 5ft6, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, active, have one dog, work full time. Box 438796 TXT

HAPPY, fit, youthful 48yr old single mum, OHAC, very good sense of humour. Likes all the normal social things. Very honest. Seeking sincere, stable, solvent man. Box 895929 TXT

MARLENE, 48, blonde hair, medium build, likes 4x4, gym, quad-biking, a glass of wine, cinema, rugby/soccer/cricket, WLTM sincere youngish guy for friendship and companionship. Box 894117 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833 TXT

HI, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WLTM compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 432992 TXT

GENUINE, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover. Box 435441 TXT

YOUNG-AT-HEART female, 48, medium build, 5ft2, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, very active, likes clubs and dining out, seeks someone with similar interests. Box 435098 TXT

LOVELY female, 49, divorced, 5ft, shoulder-length blonde hair, green eyes, size 16, likes dining out, staying in, walks in the country, seeking LTR with similar male. Box 437729 TXT

NEW to this, I'm a 58yr old woman, and I enjoy walks, theatre, meals out, and WLTM genuine man for company. Box 437774 TXT

PETITE brunette, bubbly and friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things. Wltm genuine male to see where life takes us! Box 893562 TXT

49Y/O female, medium build, blonde, quite short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular wining, dining, loving and laughter, honest, genuine and loving. Box 438854 TXT

HI, I'm Anne, 50, 5'2", medium build, brown hair/eyes, enjoy bowling, cinema, meals out, walks, like holidays, WLTM a like-minded man to share interests with. Box 438974 TXT

LOVING, lively, cuddly female, 50, 5ft4, loves rock music, walking, films, WLTM easygoing male for uncomplicated relationship, good times. Box 894299 TXT P

50YR old woman, hard working, caring, divorced, looking to have that sparkle back in my life, can you provide it? Box 893611 TXT

LOVING and loyal 49yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-56 for friendship. Box 909974 TXT

HI, I'm Yvette, 50, separated, blonde hair/blue eyes, size 12, 5'2", likes cinema, meals and drinks out, reading, walks, looking for male, 40-60, for relationship. Box 420160 TXT

LOYAL, bubbly, affectionate, attractive lady, 51, dark hair, enjoy clubs, nights in, love animals, seeking like-minded gent for happiness. Box 433585 TXT

SPORTY female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'8", blonde/blue, enjoys golf, walking, socialising, eating in/out, WLTM fun-loving, kind, sporty male, 48-60, 5'10"+. Box 165367 TXT

BRIGHT, bubbly lady, 52, 5'4", blonde hair, recently divorced, own home and car, enjoy cinema, eating out, drinks, looking for companionship and friendship. Box 419966 TXT

HI, I'm kind, caring, attractive lady, 53yr young, 5'7", brown hair/eyes, GSOH, enjoy walks, reading, travelling etc, WLTM tall, considerate man for friendship/LTR. Box 439240 TXT

I'M Helen, 56, 5ft2, slim, young at heart, enjoy many interests - walking, cinema, eating out, drives in the country; WLTM similar male, GSOH essential! Box 439296

HAPPILY divorced female, 56, 5ft4, slim, blonde/blue, attractive, intelligent, likes a laugh, cinema, cooking, walks; WLTM compatible male for everyday romance. Box 439231 TXT

SINCERE female, 57, caring, separated, I enjoy nights in/out, reading, walking, various activities, just separated for a friend and the see from there! Box 437420 TXT

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DIVORCED female, 50s, 5ft4, own home, great job and friends, likes to keep fit, hobbies include shopping, cooking, dining out, theatre/cinema, holidays, seeking friendship and more. Box 434901 TXT

FUN loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for real man. Box 903560 TXT P

YOUNG, 58yr old modern female widow, slim, enjoys nights in/out, socialising, seeking honest, reliable man for friendship, love, affection and TLC. Box 920739 TXT

PARTIALLY disabled 58yr old country woman, 5'5", fairly attractive, enjoys gardening, home life, WLTM country loving man for company and possibly LTR. Box 439065 TXT

I'M 59, smoke/drink and ride a motorbike but I'm intelligent, sensitive, caring and loving, with GSOH and many friends, but still looking for someone special. Box 893919 TXT

HAPPY, contented solvent lady, 59, N/S, living in the country near Hythe, seeks gentleman of similar disposition and means. Box 897822 TXT P

CLASSY, intelligent, divorced, attractive lady, 59, slim & active; enjoys travel, walking holidays, sport, gardening. WLTM sincere, intelligent gentleman initially for friendship, maybe more. Box 910138 TXT

HI, I'm Maggie, 5'2", reddish hair, love social evenings in, pubs/quizzes, live music, socialising, WLTM a sociable, lively, like-minded man for happy times. Box 893458 TXT

61-YEAR-OLD lively, divorcee, blonde, smart, medium build, looking for a gentleman to be knight in shining armour. Box 439019 TXT

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YOUNG 61 year old, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, very happy-go-lucky, likes dancing, walks, eating in/out. I'm very adaptable, looking for a LTR. Margate. Box 434424 TXT

BRUNETTE lady, 61, looking for a LTR, friendship first, any age considered. Interests: dancing walking, socialising, cuddling! Margate. Box 432246 TXT

USEFUL, intelligent, caring female, 62, young looking/acting, like walks, music, cooking, seeking sensitive, caring, un-complicated male, N/S, perhaps a dog owner, for friendship first. Box 434345 TXT

BLONDE lady, 60s, 5ft7, slim, N/S. I like holidays, dancing, 60s music and country & western. WLTM tall, sincere gent. Box 436618 TXT

MEN for WOMEN

FUN, bubbly male, 22, painter/decorator. I'm in Maidstone, and I'm looking for a nice, genuine girl. Box 439532 TXT

TALL guy, dark hair, medium build, a chef. Would love to meet a laid back woman, for friendship, and maybe more. South-east area. Box 439504 TXT

HI I'm 25, with brown hair, brown eyes, 6ft, muscular, WLTM a young blonde, from Canterbury preferably, for some good times. Box 439317 TXT

27-YEAR-OLD gent, 6ft, black cropped hair, tall dark, handsome, seeking someone fun and outgoing, good personality, for good times and maybe more. Box 439303 TXT

AVERAGE looking guy, 32, slim, tall, grey eyes, short hair, into regular things, pubs, restaurants, GSOH, WLTM similar-aged lady for fun evenings, possible LTR. Box 894163 TXT P

HI, I'm Nick, athletic build, slim, 5'11", brown hair/eyes, looking for fun, friendship and more. Love countryside, walks, beaches. Box 439213

HONEST 36yr old, 6ft5, muscular build, dark hair, good-looking, N/S, 1 daughter, enjoys a drink, weight-training, wildlife, reading, fishing, seeking curvy female for friendship and more. Box 437414 TXT P

HELLO, I'm 34, single Dad, blue eyes, cropped hair, 5ft8, love pubs, tv, film, wine, films and sofas, WLTM genuine lady for love. Box 437437 TXT

HOBBIES: keepfit, fishing, reading, spending time with my daughter. I'm male, 36, 6ft5, medium/muscular build, dark eyes. Looking for larger lady. Box 439529 TXT

LOVING male, 33, 6ft, fair hair/blue eyes, slim. I like cinema, theatre, meals out, nights in with a take away, keeping fit. Box 428767 TXT P

GENUINE guy, 5ft9, fair hair, 35, I like cars, music, pubs/clubs. Looking for honest and genuine woman to spend time with. Box 439095 TXT

SINGLE male, 37, 6ft, medium build, interests include cycling, beach walks, meals, socialising, WLTM nice, similar lady for potential romance. Box 438359 TXT P

I'M Stuart, 36, 6ft6, short dark hair, stocky build, love squash, badminton, swimming, the gym, theatre, seeking a fun-loving, nice lady for loyalty and love. Box 437106 TXT

HONEST, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6ft, enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLTM like-minded, genuine female. Sarah, please call again, leave contact details! Box 430440 TXT P

MARK, 38, quite laid-back and easy-going, seeking a lady to enjoy cinema, eating out, drinks and days out with, hopefully much more. Box 437866 TXT

CARING, reliable, attractive male, 36, dark hair/blue eyes, N/S, no ties, GSOH, sociable, seeks kind, down-to-earth, attractive female, for company and hopefully romance. Margate. Box 410659 TXT P

DOWN-TO-EARTH, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 TXT P

YOUNG 39-year-old single dad of 2, in south-east Kent, seeking someone 35-50, for fun times. Box 435048 TXT P

I'M 39, slim, 5ft10, I love walking the dogs, sports, socialising with friends, cinemas, pubs, clubs, live music, travel, seeking N/S female 30-45 with GSOH. Box 437160 TXT

ATTRACTIVE guy, nice to be with, laid-back, I'm 41, 5ft9, medium/stocky build, brown hair. Own business/home, enjoy walks, pubs, wine, restaurants, cinema. Box 430286 TXT

SINGLE male, 42, slim, 6ft, short hair, loves smart clothes, watching bands, pubs, clubs, DVDs, seeking slim-medium build lady 24-40 for snuggles and cuddles on sofas! Box 437844 TXT

ATTRACTIVE mixed race male, 41, 5'10", likes chatting, good company. Looking for a friendly female under 42, who lives in Swale or Medway boroughs. Box 893540 TXT P

41YR old joker, loves animals and having lots of laughs, seeks a female of similar character for fun-loving relationship. Box 438023 TXT

SELF employed chap. I love cooking, fishing, travelling, holidays. I'm 43, and looking for a single, lovely lady to get to know. Box 439172 TXT

RICHARD, 43, single, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, loves theatre/music, holidays, travel, bowling, WLTM female 34-56 to share good times and hopefully find love with. Box 438832 TXT

ATHLETIC build male, 43, 5ft8, blue eyes, likes night in and out, sea-fishing, seeking a nice lady to get to know and see what happens. Box 439350 TXT

EASYGOING 43yr old single dad, stocky build, very confident, GSOH, enjoy pubs, meals out, looking for a female to share laughs and outings. Box 435262 TXT

LOVING guy, in Ashford. I'm 43, and have dark hair/blue eyes, medium build. I enjoy theatre, holidays, cinema, beach walks, music, bowling. Box 437557 TXT

ATTENTION ladies! Nice looking, cheeky, fun loving guy, 42, seeks an attractive, fun loving female for loads of fun & laughs. East Kent. Box 824810 TXT

HONEST, easygoing male, 40, builder, medium build, dark hair/green eyes, likes meals in/out, walks, seaside, WLTM genuine female, for friendship, possibly more. Sheerness. Box 335207 TXT

HANDSOME male, 43, slim, good-looking, enjoys music, cinema, nights in with a glass of wine, seeks attractive, kind, caring female, 30-45, for fun/friendship/relationship, maybe more. Box 367907 TXT

WARM, tactile male, 42, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967 TXT

CONFIDENT male, 42, 5'10", nice build, single dad, own home, loves cooking, going out, sports, WLTM someone similar to me. Maidstone. Box 411411 TXT

GOOD looking male, 42, 6'2", well built, muscular, fit, enjoys cars, motorbike, golf, rugby, socialising, travel, seeks female for friendship, leading to serious relationship. Box 158489 TXT

I'M 45, 5ft10, medium build, blue eyes, shaved head, like having fun, a laugh, love music and film, seeking a female 25-48 for romance. Box 435737 TXT P

ACTIVE male, 44, 6'2", slim/medium, blue eyes, brown hair, enjoys most things in life, especially travelling and adventures. Seeking female for company or more. Box 920903 TXT P

HI, I'm a caring, considerate and a romantic at heart male, 45, love to meet new people, love animals and nature. Box 897013 TXT

NICE, honest, reliable guy, 45, needs lovely lady for friendship, cuddles and romance, so don't be shy, call today! Box 439544 TXT

PROFESSIONAL male, 45, own home/car, likes cinemas, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 426202 TXT

BLOND, blue-eyed male, 46, 5ft8, enjoys socialising, cinema, live alone in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship and more. Box 421664 TXT

LOOKING for friendship, maybe more with an intelligent, slim, attractive woman. I'm fit, 40s, sociable, sensitive, and fun. Enjoy good company, like a drink and smoke. Box 897985 TXT P

OUTGOING male, 47, very young-minded, enjoys sports, football, playing golf, loves nice wine, meals; seeking smart, elegant, easygoing lady for love & happiness! Box 439354 TXT

FIT male, 47, hard-working, 3 grown up children, likes going out, eating out, staying in, cinema/theatre, walks in countryside; WLTM attractive lady for partnership. Box 438586 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING male, 47, VGSOH, medium build, varied interests, looking for friendship and love with honest, easygoing female with GSOH, kids not a problem. Box 898446 TXT

YOUTHFUL dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, WLTM female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook. Box 737529 TXT

MICHAEL, 49, hard-working, shy, likes music, classic cars, good meals, socialising; WLTM female with similar interests to care for and find true happiness with. Box 439215 TXT

50YR old affectionate and considerate man, looking for a beautiful, single female for happy times and more. Box 438932 TXT

HI there, 50yr old male, 6ft, short hair, I love the cinema, walks, going out, pubbing, seeking female with GSOH for like-minded conversation and more. Box 437486 TXT P

EASYGOING male, 48, slim, short brown hair/eyes, likes swimming, gardening, walking, cycling, eating in and out, pubs, looking for female, for lasting love. Box 806905 TXT P

THOUGHTFUL male, 49, 5'7", slim/medium build, short brown hair, looking for bubbly, outgoing lady to share romantic times together. Like wining/dining, country walks, cooking etc. Box 419208 TXT P

KIND male, 50, 5ft11, slim, N/S, 2 boys (19 &16), likes eating out, visiting London, weekends!!! Looking for kind, caring lady. Looks not important. Box 425308 TXT P

HARD working, fit, nice guy, 51, 5ft6. I'm loyal and have a big heart. I have 2 dogs, and enjoy the cinema, cosy nights, eating out. Box 437829 TXT

YOUNG 51, good-looking, young-looking, N/S, GSOH, fit, slim, romantic, solvent, caring, likes most things in life: food/wine etc, seeking genuine lady to share life with. Box 434593 TXT

FUN-LOVING male, 52, likes going out, playing golf, motor cycles, socialising, visiting new places, WLTM an interesting female. Box 427713 TXT

LOYAL, honest male, 55, 5'11", blue eyes. divorced, enjoys walks, eating out/in, cinema, shopping etc, seeks lady 40-50, GSOH, for romance and love. Box 410846 TXT

WIDOWER, 5ft10, 53, GSOH, outgoing, fairly fit, genuine, sincere, scrub up well, like clubs, music, travel, holidays, WLTM nice female, 50-58, with similar outlook. Box 434562 TXT

I'M 53, 5ft9, good-looking! Love sports, horses, animals generally, WLTM an honest, caring lady, preferably blonde & sporty, to get to know. Box 439298

55Y/O male, 6ft1, young looking, likes to keep fit, plays most sports, gardening, seeking attractive, fun local lady 35-50 for mutual love & affection. Box 438804 TXT

55YR old reliable and understanding male, athletic build, GSOH, enjoy the finer things in life, seeking a lady to share my life with and companionship. Box 434674 TXT

LOOKING for an extrovert, attractive female, 30-50, with a passion for tactile, hungry meetings. I'm 56 and can't wait to hear your voice! Box 429567 TXT

SEPARATED male, 56, 5ft11, medium build, hazel-eyes, non-smoker, own business, loves classic cars, boot fairs, antiques, meals, cinema, holidays, seeking female to share this and more. Box 438055 TXT

HELLO, I'm 57, male, slim, 5ft10, separated, a postman. I like playing golf, gardening, cooking. Box 439415 TXT P

DAVID, 62, I have my own house/car, enjoy most of life's pleasures, seeking honest, sincere lady to share life together. Box 430794 TXT

HI I'm Steve, 62, own business, 5'10", blue eyes, short black hair, like cosy nights in, holidays, animals, seek female, for love and romance. Box 423275 TXT

Men for men

35YR old male, looking for fun with an attractive man. I'm good looking, with a slim/medium build. Box 437652 TXT

GOOD guy, looking for male, 35-50. I'm 40, green eyes, dark hair, average build. I enjoy pubs, music, cinema, dining in/out. Box 436613 TXT

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27/04/08

KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Opik not cheeky to air his views

WHEN Lembit Opik MP came to Gravesend to raise legitimate concerns about a proposed skyscraper that has been met with far less than universal approval, council leader Mike Snelling saw fit to describe him as a "national joke".

While Mr Opik's public image is dominated by his relationship with his Cheeky Girl fiancée and appearances on light entertainment shows, his political position is that of housing spokesman for the country's third biggest political party.

While that party may not have local representation in Gravesham, he is more than entitled to air his views on a development that many residents, and many of our readers, have grave reservations about.

Guide teens on safe path to sex

BRITAIN has among the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Europe and new figures show some areas of Kent are above the national average.

Sexual health clinics, such as the one at Sittingbourne Community College, may be the way forward and not just because they make contraception easily available.

Telling teenagers under 16 not to have sex does not work. But having a place they where can talk about their relationships and get advice about sex and how to be safe is vital.

A culture of openness and advice in all aspects of life seems to be prevalent at the school – this means the young people are being given the confidence to allow them to make the right choices for themselves.

OPINION: Support local musicians

We should be doing more for emerging talent on our own doorstep, says JULIA JONES

A DARK saloon bar in Austin, Texas, is not normally the place you would expect to find yourself surrounded by Brits.

Unless that is you are there during America's biggest music festival South-by-Southwest.

SXSW has been running for 22 years now and is the biggest showcase opportunity for young British music talent hoping to be spotted by the big music moguls who still gravitate there to enjoy four days of beer, sun, tacos, networking and of course great music.

It was while sipping my beer at that bar and nursing my sunburn that I began really noticing the accents of the numerous British musicians around me.

The UK has for a number of years offered significant funding for music development in regions of the country which are deemed to be 'in need'.

This has led over time to the development of various regional music associations such as the Welsh Music Foundation, the Manchester City Music Network, Generator in the North East of England, the Scottish Highland and Island Music Enterprise Scheme. These organisations have helped their local talent grow and access funding.

So why is there no Kent Music Association to help our local venues and local talent develop new audiences, and achieve greater levels of music success?

Herein lies the problem. The South East of England is viewed as a 'wealthy' region. Therefore, we do not qualify for the funding that other regions of the UK do although there are some possible finance options available to musicians who have the tenacity to battle through the paperwork.

How then can we help our home-grown talent? This is certainly the year for the Kent audience to rise to the occasion and help catapult one of our undiscovered acts into the limelight.

This year of 2008 has become a huge year for music in the county. We are suddenly spoilt for choice with an array of great festivals, music venues, and music education courses thanks to a small number of enthusiastic people behind the scenes who are making this happen.

Even within the next few months we have festivals such as Radio 1's Big Weekend, Zoo Thousand, Sellindge Music Festival, Lounge on the Farm, and Sound Island. All drawing famous names to their line-ups such as Madonna, Mark Ronson, The Hoosiers, Scouting For Girls and Katherine Jenkins, and all making a commitment to also showcase local acts.

Radio stations are also stepping up their support, including BBC Kent rolling out the national 'BBC Introducing' tour at venues around the county as we speak.

The network of local music talent is getting stronger and if you catch a local music gig you will find that the standard of performance is much higher than you might expect.

Even the Government has realised that with manufacturing and service industries relocating to cheaper countries our economy is going to be more reliant on our UK music industry than ever before.

In response to this many more music education courses have been provided in Kent both at further and higher education level.

In September, Canterbury Christ Church University will expect to have more than 100 commercial music degree students at its Broadstairs campus, with an additional influx of students expected into the new music industry management degree launching this year.

Students learn 'hands-on', working with local emerging artists such as Richard Pollott and Billy Rebel through the in-house C3U record label, and interacting with students in New York and Sydney through real-life music businesses such as The BritBus Tour.

We are in a good position to really establish Kent as a strong music county with successful music businesses and acts who break through to the mainstream international audience.

In my opinion the bottom line is that we don't necessarily need funding or a regional music association to achieve this.

We just need enthusiastic and supportive audiences who really get behind a local act that they find they love.

Make this the year of local music in Kent and get online and buy yourself a ticket to these events. It'll be the 'best day out on your doorstep' and think how great you will feel when in future you see a Kent act on stage at Wembley knowing that you helped them on their way.

•Julia Jones is founding director of the BritBus Tour.

Short courses at Medway

Want to know what it's like to study at university or take a class in something of interest?

Why not enrol now on an evening class? You will get to meet new people and learn a new subject that will stretch your mind or even improve your job prospects.

The University of Greenwich at Medway are offering a suite of short evening courses:

Adventures in Criminology	Wednesdays
Angels and Demons: The Philosophy of Good and Evil	Tuesdays
Creative Writing	Tuesdays
Effective Writing	Thursdays
English for Study	Thursdays
Late Modern Society, the Individual and Identity: Sex and Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll	Wednesdays
Mathematics (GCSE equivalent)	Tuesdays

Courses run from 6.30–8.30pm from week commencing 21 April for 6 weeks.

Registration will be held on the first evening of attendance, 22, 23 or 24 April, from 4.30pm. Short Course Centre, Blake Building, Chatham Maritime.

the UNIVERSITY of GREENWICH

For more information or an application form:
Freephone: 0800 005 006
E-mail: medwayshortcourses@gre.ac.uk
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Christianity at home

The Archbishop of Canterbury's concern for Christians in the Middle East is laudable. It is just a pity he doesn't show the same concern for the plight of Christians in this country.

PJE Pepper
Ramsgate

My bike beats the bus

Thanks to my free pass I could travel all the way from my home in Gravesend to the ancient Cornish town of Penzance – known the world over for sand and fish – and it wouldn't cost me a penny!

Apart, that is, from the exorbitant cost of several nights' accommodation, the inflated cost of restaurant and café food and the ruinous cost of a private ambulance all the way home after developing pneumonia waiting in the rain in some Cornish station car park for the Wednesday bus, which is a day late.

As a pensioner, I appreciate the chance to swan about the country, free of charge, from Penzance to Great Yarmouth, from Portsmouth to Berwick. But what I'd appreciate more is being able to get into town before 10am to do my shopping and get home in time for lunch.

Nowadays, the first bus in Gravesend town centre after 9.30am is so crowded it sometimes sails past, leaving people at the stop. And some people find it impossible to get through the crush to alight at the stop they want.

I have a suspicion the free bus pass isn't a favour to old folk at all. It's part of a conspiracy by the road builders, the carmakers and the oil companies to stuff the buses to bursting point and make public transport so intolerable we are all forced to go by car.

Personally, now that the warmer weather is here, I'm going to go back to the bike. It's goodbye to puking kids, goodbye to mobile phones with novelty ring tone and goodbye to consumptives coughing down my neck. I may never see Lampeter, but at least I shall get home from the shops early.

Michael Reeves
Gravesend

In defence of the building trade

The Office of Fair Trading's investigation into the practice of cover prices within the contracting industry is of interest to me as I was employed as an estimator in the service side of the contracting industry.

Therefore I would like to make a few comments in defence of those legitimate companies who due to circumstance try to keep a customer happy, at times when they were too busy to submit a bona fide tender.

Under the rules of competitive tendering, customers must invite a minimum number of contractors to tender for their work. This requirement can present a customer with a problem in selecting a sufficient number of contractors who have the capacity to meet a particular specification.

Conversely, contracting companies who trade within a competitive market, operate with a limited number of overhead staff, that includes their sales and estimating department.

Therefore there are times when invitations to tender are received and the contractor's estimating department are committed to other tenders and cannot take on any more work within the time scale. Or the company may wish to decline the invitation due to hostile terms and conditions or the very nature of the job. Who would want to carry out construction work in Basra?

To decline a job for such legitimate reasons can often lead to the customer removing a contractor from his preferred supplier list and cause him a problem with finding another contractor, so he can comply with the rules of competitive tendering.

Therefore in order to maintain goodwill a contractor may be seek the cover price solution. After all there are many ways of saying no without causing offence and problems for a future customer.

If there are six companies tendering and two present a cover price, there are still four competitive tenders and only one winner, who in the case of local authorities and government departments is generally the lowest, even if it looks ridiculously cheap!

To conclude, I have never knowingly been involved in such practice, but have been aware of it and I would never condone a practice that would trick a customer into paying more than a fair price for a job.

However, I do think the OFT should revise the ground rules that government and local authorities are required to work to. Thus enabling contracting companies to present quality bids within a realistic time scale and at a price that is both affordable and profitable.

Victor Allen
Wouldham

We are getting angry

I am so angry and outraged about your article headlined, 'A voice for those with learning disabilities'.

My son is 26 years old and has Down's syndrome. He is very happy in his day centre.

He has a wonderful, very structured day; just the tonic they need.

They have many projects ongoing which are expertly run. I'd love for my son to have a wife and children but this will never happen. If he had a child who would help him and give him support? Not anyone at Kent County Council. My phone has not stopped ringing. There are angry people out there.

L Surridge
Herne Bay

There is no secrecy

I am writing in response to last week's article titled 'Councillors told to declare business links' which focused on information held by KCC and details of members' commercial interests. It is clear we have never attempted to hide this information and there are, in fact, many ways which members of the public have access to wide-ranging information about members of the council.

The Information Point at County Hall, Maidstone holds a bank of documents and information which can be seen by members of the public. In addition our website records minutes of council meetings, webcasts and background papers as well as decision documents are also easily accessible.

Information regarding members' commercial interests are held in a publicly available document called the Register of Interests and can currently be viewed by appointment. From June the whole picture will be accessible via the internet making it easier for those who live outside Maidstone who may wish to access the register.

Letters continued on p32

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements In partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ADAMS
Maria and Stuart of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Jack Adrian Adams on 16th April 2008. A brother for Jordan Ethan and Baylee.

ALLAN
Nicola and John of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Sean Daniel Alexander, born on 15th April 2008 at QEQM Hospital. Brother for Jacob and Harry.

AUSTIN
Craig and Kayleigh Weatherly of Canterbury celebrate the birth of their son Harrison Mark Austin on 12th April 2008.

BROWN
Alan and Tracey of Boughton under Blean are proud to announce the birth of their son, Lewis Benjamin Brown, on 15th April 2008. A new baby brother for Adam, Daniel and Thomas.

CAPEWELL
Cathryn and Daniel are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Evie Louise, born on 7th April 2008 at Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital Margate.

CAPRIGLIONE
Andrew and Gemma of Staplehurst are proud to announce the arrival of their baby girl, Ellie Mia Capriglione born 30th March 2008 weighing 4lb 9oz.

CHAMPKIN
Matthew and Gemma Champkin of Tonbridge proudly announce the arrival of their baby son Daniel James, born 16th April 2008 weighing 7lb 6oz.

CHARLTON
Esme Louise born on 1st April 2008 to elated parents Karen and Tom weighing a healthy 8lb 12oz at Pembury Hospital.

CLARK
Tony and Claire of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Charlotte Rebecca, on 10th April 2008. A new baby sister for Harrison.

DURI
Fungai and Hazel (of Canterbury) are delighted to welcome the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Isabella Makanaka, on 9th April 2008.

FINLAY
Charlotte and Iain Finlay of Staple are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Holly Ann Finlay on 31st March 2008.

GANNON
Damien and Niina are pleased to announce the birth of their son Thomas on 16th April 2008 weighing 8lb 5oz. A brother for Ben and Sam.

GUTZWILLER
To Baz and Sian of Canterbury a beautiful daughter, Ali, born on 8th April 2008 weighing 7lb 1oz.

HAZELWOOD
Marc and Lorraine are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Elise Tia Hazelwood. Elise was born at 10.35am on the 7th April at Maidstone Hospital and weighed 8lb 3oz.

HOILE
Anthony and Emma of Faversham are proud to announce the birth of their son, Henry James, on 11th April 2008.

JOHNSON
Carole, Simon and baby William of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of Samuel Thomas Roger, born on 9th April 2008.

KENDALL
To John and Natalie of Herne Bay , a son, George, born on 5th April 2008. A new baby brother for Lily.

KNOWLES
Terry and Terry of Langton Green are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Rosa Grace on 13th April 2008 a sister for Lily Florence.

KOEHLER-PRICE
Ffinian born on 5th April 2008, weighing 8lbs 4oz. Son to Aline and Richard Koehler-Price in Hollingbourne.

LUSHER
Paul and Charlotte are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Ellie Emma on 3rd April 2008 weighing 6lb 2oz, a sister for Jay William.

MARCHESE
Jessica Holly Marchese born on 18th April 2008, weighing 7lb 13oz. Daughter to Kevin and Ruth Marchese and sister to Chloe and Dominic, in Larkfield.

McDONNELL
Patrick and Andrea are delighted to announce the birth of their son Jake Oliver on 6th April 2008 weighing 8lb 10oz. A brother for Joseph.

NICHOLL
Dean and Emma are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Shannon-Louise Theresa on 31st March 2008 weighing 3lb 15oz at Pembury Hospital.

OWEN
Crispin and Ellen of Langton Green are delighted to announce the arrival of their baby daughter Matilda Clementine Rosemary Owen born 25th March 2008 weighing 8lb 1oz.

PALMER-BUTTERY
Paul and Jackie are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Gemma Elisabeth on 24th March 2008 weighing 3lb 3oz. With special thanks to everyone at the Special Care Baby Unit at Pembury.

READ
Layla Jane Louise. Born on 13th April 2008, weighing 7lbs 9oz. Daughter to Kelly Conners and Ronald Reddick in Deal.

REILLY
Sean and Nicole of Chartham are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Alexander Sean Nicolas, on 7th April 2008. Alexander weighed 9lb 1oz. A new baby brother for James.

RICHARDS-TAZEY
Jennifer was born on 19th April 2008 weighing 6lbs 8ozs. Daughter. to Mum and Dad Claire and Darren.

ROFF
Jai and Lysette are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Verena Patricia Rachel Roff born on 14th April 2008 weighing 6lb 5oz.

ROLFE
Dan and Nicola Rolfe are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Lois Poppy born on 30th March 2008 at Darent Valley Hospital weighing 7lb 1oz.

SPARKS
Robert and Hayley of Tunbridge Wells are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter Mary-Jane Colleen Sparks born 17th April 2008 weighing 7lb 11oz.

TASKER
Amber Maria born on 12th April 2008 weighing 7lb 1oz. Daughter for Zoe and sister for Zane.

TRAVELL
Mark and Christine Travell of Tonbridge are delighted to announce the arrival of their baby daughter Caitlin Lisa Simister Travell born 15th April 2008 weighing 7lb 13oz.

TWYMAN
Alfie Twyman born on 28th March 2008, weighing 8lbs 5oz. Son to Chris and Claire and little brother to Chloe.

WAYMAN
Harvey born on 15th April 2008, weighing 6lbs 2oz. Son to Alice and Chris and brother to Justin in Maidstone.

WILKINSON
Gina and Murray celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Emma Leigh born on 16th April 2008 weighing 7lb 6oz.

WOOD
William Francis born to proud parents Steven and Naomi on 15th April 2008 at Pembury Hospital.

YOUNG-ROGERS
Victoria Elizabeth born on 8th April 2008 weighing 6lb 5oz. A daughter for Daryl and Felicity and sister to Wesley.

DEATHS

ALDRIDGE
Ronald Edgar of Garlinge, formerly of Maidstone passed away peacefully on Wednesday 16th April 2008 aged 89.

BERRIMAN
Kathleen Berriman nee Couchman passed away Monday 14th April at Darent Valley Hospital. Enquiries to Horlock Funeral Services Northfleet. Will be sadly missed by family and friends.

EDWARDS
Joyce passed away peacefully on 19th April 2008 at Hospice in the Weald. Loving wife, mother and grandmother who will be sadly missed. All enquiries via Alex Jones of Lingfield.

ELSDON
Elizabeth Elsdon of Lavenders West Malling died peacefully on 15th April 2008 aged 91. Thank you to all the staff at Lavenders for their wonderful care.

FIELDER
Frances Cameron Fielder of Canterbury passed away peacefully on 14th April 2008. Loving wife of Ray, loving mum to Layla and Ross and much loved granny to Maia and Ayla. Words cannot express how much she will be missed. The funeral was held on Tuesday 22nd April at Barham.

HALLIDAY
Gladys Rose Halliday of Lavender House West Malling, formerly of Blackfen Sidcup, passed away peacefully on 16th April 2008, aged 92.

HARDING
Audrey Patience passed away peacefully on 16th April 2008. A wonderful sister. She will be ever in our thoughts. Service at Eltham Crematorium 1st May 2pm. All enquiries to Co-op Funeralcare Dartford.

HORTON
Trevor John Horton passed away on the 6th April 2008. Ex Dormobile, Queens Royal Regiment (Buffs). Aged 75 years. Funeral at Hawkinge Crematorium 2nd May 2008 at 11:45am. Family flowers only. Any willing donations to be entwinned in Trevors gravestone as a memorial memory. Via Chittendens Folkestone.

JUPP
Norman Victor Jupp of Staplehurst, passed away peacefully on the 14th April 2008, aged 86. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

KELLY
Elizabeth Kelly beloved wife of Alex passed away 15th April 2008. Sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service at Medway Crematorium 1st May 11am.

LLOYD
June Rose Lloyd passed away suddenly at her home in Faversham on 17th April 2008.A loving mum to Tony and Diane and much loved Nan to Gavin,Matthew and Kaleigh.Reunited and together again with her husband. The funeral is to be held at Charing on Tuesday April 29th at 10.40am. All flowers welcome as June loved them.

QUICKFALL
Paul Gregory Quickfall of Westgate on Sea passed away on 16th April 2008. Enquires to Gore Brothers Westgate on Sea 01843 835836.

SKOULDING
Eileen Jessie Skoulding of Canterbury passed away peacefully, at her home, on 12th April 2008. Beloved wife of Cedric and loving mum to Karen and Andrew.Much loved grandma to Omar and Ami. The funeral was held on 22nd April 2008 at Barham.

SMITH
Miriam Victoria Smith of Herne Bay (formerly of Canterbury) passed away peacefully on 16th April 2008. Loving mum to Gloria and much loved Nan to Jacqui and Emma. The funeral is to be held on 1st May at Whitstable cemetery at 11am.

TOOMER
Frederick Toomer of Whitstable passed away peacefully on 11th April 2008.Reunited with his beloved wife Joan and daughter Joannie. The funeral was held on Friday April 25th at St Alphege, Whitstable.

WISE
Diane Joyce Wise of Herne Bay passed away peacefully on 18th April 2008. Beloved wife of Colin,a much loved mum to Sara, Nicola and Tania, and a much loved Nan to Jason, Joshua, Tom and Craig.She will be very deeply missed.The funeral is to be held at Barham on Tuesday 29th April at 3.20pm. No flowers but donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation.

YATES
Peter George Yates of Whitstable passed away suddenly after a long illness on 13th April 2008. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.Many thanks to the staff at Kent and Canterbury Hospital for their care and support. The funeral was held at Barham Crematorium on 24th April.

SHEILA CLARKE

Born with dignity, courage and tenacity
July 1936 - April 2008

Sheila peacefully passed away on the 18th April, following a 12 year fight against cancer.
She will be sadly missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.
The family sincerely thanks Dr Coltart and his staff at the Chaucer hospital, for giving her that extra time.
Cremation at Barham 14:00 Thursday 29th.
No flowers but kindly feel free to make donations, if you wish, to the PILGRIMS HOSPICE (Canterbury) in consideration of the wonderful care and kindness to Sheila in her last 8 days.

Norman- Ashley-Adrian/Helle & Family.

Letters continued from p31

The Freedom of Information Act provides opportunity to ask any public authority questions and is dealt with by a specialist team at County Hall – they have dealt with more than 2,000 requests since 2005. Requests which would exceed 18 hours of staff time to be dealt with can be refused – the law recognises that it is not fair that the taxpayer should meet this cost.

The Audit Commission recognises Kent as an 'excellent authority' and we are proud of the achievements KCC has made and the recognition the council has received for managing public money efficiently.

Members know and understand the importance of transparency in their dealings and we will continue to keep residents as well informed as we can on the issues affecting Kent.

Alex King MBE
KCC Deputy Leader
County Hall
Maidstone

Engine improved

I read your article on April 13 about Frank Perkins and the diesel engine with some interest, but think it should be put into context.

As I stated in my book, the successful diesel engine had already been designed and manufactured by Aveling and Porter at Strood. Frank Perkins was able to recognise the potential and buy the rights to an existing product on the collapse of Agricultural and General Engineers. This puts a slightly different gloss on the story, which may have been about improvements to an existing product rather than the impression given of starting from scratch.

Jim Preston
Rochester

Good practice

Your report entitled 'Communist KCC is controlling means of production' kept us laughing all through lunch as we envisaged that spectre stalking Kent.

And it was also the misunderstanding shown by the report which classified 'service activities' as 'means of production' which capped the entertainment; we were reminded of the description in the Communist Manifesto of the 'nursery tale of the spectre' which that publication was debunking.

But, to be serious; many of the activities in the list in your article have been carried on by direct labour, plus specialised contracts, at least since World War Two.

From 1960 to 1980 I was employed as a surveyor by KCC to, (amongst other things), manage the branch of the estates department which carried out landscaping and grounds maintenance in a tradition which had been established by the old Agriculture Department during the war and I well remember the pride of the Conservative chairmen of the council during that time in the embellishment to the Garden of England which the grounds of their schools, buildings and roadsides presented as examples of good practice; long may it continue.

Leslie Turner
Maidstone

Class warrior

The practice of giving places at Kent schools to outsiders is wrong and must stop. I get nothing from Sussex or Bromley councils so it is unfair for my council tax to pay for the education of children whose parents are almost certainly richer than me.

Also it is wrong that our own Kentish children have a lesser chance of going to a top school.

Quentin Williamson
Dartford

WIN air show family tickets

THE 2008 History Channel Air Fair at London Biggin Hill Airport will provide top-flight, spectacular entertainment for all the family over both days of the weekend of June 7-8.

A celebration of the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force, the show will be featuring a number of famous aircraft notably Vickers Vimy, Lancaster, Spitfire, Hurricane, Typhoon, Tornado F3 and GR4, Chinook and the mighty Avro Vulcan V-bomber from the years of the Cold War.

The modern RAF will present its role demonstration and will be brought to life with some of the largest pyrotechnic displays seen in the UK.

The full list of display aircraft taking part in the five-hour flying spectacular can be seen on www.bigginhillairfair.co.uk.

In the ground exhibition, the Motoring Village will feature 14 stands with Porsche, Toyota, Lexus, Vauxhall, Ferrari and Lamborghini cars all on display. Motorcycling interests are covered by Harley Davidson.

A parade of up to 100 classic cars will be a special feature in the motoring arena. Simulator rides and a full funfair offer further entertainment.

The Air Fair Booking Office is now open and there are discounts for early purchase.

How to book:

- By telephone: 01959 578270 or 01959 578271.
- Online: www.bigginhillairfair.co.uk/ticket-prices.php.

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For our full terms and conditions visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry. Closing date is May 19, 2008.

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Stocktake reveals basic skills failings

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

POOR basic skills in English and maths are affecting customer service and the performance of businesses across the South East, an employers' group has revealed.

A national survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) found that more than half of employers lack confidence in their ability to find enough people with the right skills for their business.

Malcolm Hyde, CBI South East regional director, said: "A worrying number of employers have little confidence that they will be able to plug their skills gaps.

"In our new stocktake of the region's skills, too many firms also say poor basic skills are hampering customer service and acting as a drag on their business's performance."

Students across Kent are getting ready for the summer's round of exams for GCSEs, A-levels, degrees and other qualifications.

Mr Hyde said: "Being skilled is all the more important in an increasingly global economy, and our message to students is that your hard work to attain the right skills and good qualifications is essential to securing quality, well-paid jobs after school, college or university.

Science

"This survey is also an alarm call to students and universities, who may be surprised by just how much employers also value the 'softer' skills that make people more employable.

"This means being a good team-worker, communicator and problem-solver is vital and getting work experience goes a long way with a future employer."

The survey, jointly carried out by the CBI and Edexcel, covered 35 firms that employ 1.7 million people between them.

It found that 40 per cent of employers had serious concerns about employees' basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Almost half of companies are having problems recruiting staff skilled in science subjects including technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

This is coupled with high demand for these skills with 92 per cent of firms across all sectors saying they want people trained in these subjects.

The CBI blames a low take-up of STEM subjects at universities as contributing to the problem.

Over the past decade there has been a 15 per cent fall in engineering and technology graduates, the CBI said.

Find more news and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Centre's revamp

SPORTS therapy and Indian head massage are courses Kent County Council is offering at its refurbished adult education centre.

The Holmesdale centre is offering seven, six-hour sessions, which are open to the public, throughout May and June.

A course called, 'Would you make a beauty therapist?' is among those on offer.

Most of the classes are held on a Saturday and introductions to diet and nutrition, reflexology and aromatherapy, are also run at the centre in Malling Road, Snodland.

Details at www.kent.gov.uk or call 0845 606 5606.

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WELCOME: The visitors learnt about English schools

Japanese lessons for pupils

A GROUP of Japanese students have paid a visit to a grammar and introduced the pupils to the ancient art of origami.

The visit was organised by Stafford House College in Canterbury as part of its third annual 10-day English and tourism course.

Alison Wilson, the college's headteacher, said: "They are so very interested in both the lectures and everything about Kent and the British way of life. We are already planning their 2009 trip."

A group of 12 students from Shiraume Gakuen Girls High School in Tokyo visited Simon Langton Girls Grammar School to experience the differences between the education system in Japan and England.

They joined sixth formers at the Canterbury school for school dinners, took part in lessons and went to a lecture by Chris Hitchcock from pharmaceutical company Pfizer, which is based in Sandwich, and led an origami demonstration.

Japanese pupils have the same school hours as British young people but have to go in for a half-day on Saturdays.

English is the only second language taught at Japanese schools, whereas Simon Langton offers French, German, Spanish, Latin and Ancient Greek as options for students.

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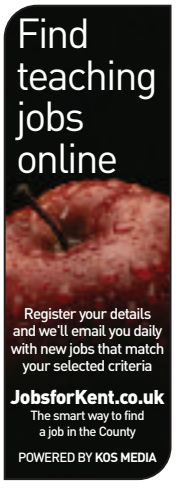

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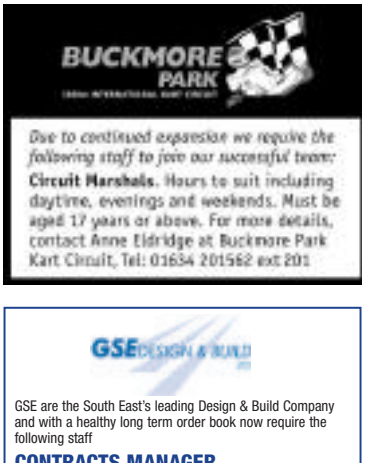

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TECHNICIAN/INSTRUCTOR DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Required as soon as possible. 37 hours per week for 41 weeks per year. Salary Kent Scheme 4 £15,826 - £16,627 (pro rata). To support teaching and learning in Design and Technology and following appropriate training to cover for absent teachers on short term sickness. Further detail available from the school.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 6th May 2008

Wilmington Enterprise College
Common Lane, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent DA2 7DR
Headteacher: Grahame Price
Tel: 01322 272111 Fax: 01322 222500
email: admin@wec.kent.sch.uk
www.wec.kent.sch.uk

CARETAKER

52 weeks (hours negotiable). To join our existing team responsible for security, caretaking, cleaning, painting and general maintenance needs of the school. To start as soon as possible. Kent Scheme 3 Points 7-11 (£13,959 - £15,826 pro rata). Please contact the school for application form and further details.

Closing date: 6th May 2008

To advertise in this section 01303 817040

HARBOUR SCHOOL

Learning & Achieving Together

Elms Vale Road, Dover CT17 9PS
Tel: 01304 201964 • Fax: 01304 225000
E-Mail: office@harbour.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Tony Berresford, M.Ed.

Harbour School has two vacancies working within the secondary phase supporting pupils with a range of behaviour and learning needs. Dependant on skills, qualifications and experience we are seeking to appoint either Teaching Assistants or Higher Level Teaching Assistants.

Hours for both roles: 30hrs per week, term time only
Start: ASAP

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Kent Scheme, Band 3, Points 7-11 + SEN Allowance
£13,959 - £15,826 (pro-rata to £10,618 - £12,001)

Prospective candidates wishing to apply for a Teaching Assistant role should be bright, full of ideas and enjoy using their own initiative. Experience of working in a school environment with special needs pupils in particular, would be an advantage.

OR

HIGHER LEVEL TEACHING ASSISTANT

Kent Scheme, Band 7, Points 20-24 + SEN Allowance
£20,061 - £22,825 (pro-rata £14,794 - £16,837)

Prospective candidates for a Higher Level Teaching Assistant role should have experience of working in a school environment and in particular covering subject lessons for a teacher. We especially require a highly computer literate/technical support assistant but anyone with experience within a particular subject will be considered.

OfSTED describes the school as, "outstanding in all areas", the school has an excellent reputation locally and it provides a challenging, productive and happy learning environment. The school has also gained the "Investors in People" standard and therefore places a high priority on professional and career development.

For more information and to request an application pack, please contact the school office.

Closing date: Friday 2nd May 2008
Interviews: Monday 12th May 2008

The school requires a completed application form – no CV's accepted.
****No Recruitment Agencies or other Advertising Companies****

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

With campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, South Kent College offers a wide-range of courses from Entry Level to Level 7 and caters for over 15,000 students of all ages. As a Further and Higher Education College, we are the largest education institution in Kent.

We currently have the following opportunities:

Lecturer in Sociology
12.5 hours per week
Ashford

Lecturer in ESOL
Variable hours, fixed-term until 31st July 2008
Folkestone

Life Long Learning Network Co-ordinator
11 hours per week, fixed-term until 31st July 2009
Ashford

Assessor - Health and Care (Promoting Independence)
37 hours per week
Folkestone

Assessor - Health and Care (Children and Young People)
37 hours per week
Folkestone

Administration Assistant
37 hours per week, fixed-term until 31st March 2010
Folkestone

Systems Technician
37 hours per week
Ashford

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is Wednesday 7th May 2008.

For further information, including salary details and an application pack for the above vacancies, please contact the Human Resources Department on either 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.
We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment.
Applications are welcome form suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

SKC South Kent College
ASHFORD • DOVER • FOLKESTONE

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is striving to improve the services it provides and is looking for positive, committed people with a 'can-do' attitude to join our skilled team.

Civil Enforcement Officers x 5
£15,470 - £17,781pa
(plus an additional market supplement of £3,000pa)
(37 hours / will be required to work Saturdays and Sundays on rota basis)

Are you looking for responsible and rewarding employment carrying out a service to the community?

Can you help Tunbridge Wells Borough Council resolve its traffic/parking problems?

The Parking Section is looking to recruit a number of Civil Enforcement Officers to join its existing team. You will be responsible for the enforcement of parking regulations across the borough, both on-street and in the Council's off-street car parks, and full training to a nationally recognised qualification will be given. Employment in the post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

If you:
- have experience of a front-line, public-oriented service, or of local authority parking operations
- have the ability to respond well to challenging situations
- are confident and focused on customer service
- have good communication and interpersonal skills
- have a full driving licence.

then this could be the opportunity for you.

Closing date: 9th May 2008 **Interviews:** w/c 19th May 2008

For an application form and information pack please visit our website www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk or contact the HR Department.

post: Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS
e-mail: personnel@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
phone: 01892 554149 (24 hour answerphone) or 01892 526121 ext 3380. Please state which job/position you are applying for.

Tunbridge Wells BOROUGH COUNCIL
www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is committed to Equal Opportunities

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Further Education Sports Co-ordinator (FESCo)

Salary: £28,378 pro rata per annum
Location: South Kent College, Folkestone
Post: 15 hours per week
(3 year fixed-term contract renewable subject to continuous funding)

For South Kent College based at Folkestone as part of The Shepway School Sport Partnership.

We are looking for a committed individual to develop this new role of a Further Education Sport Co-ordinator. As a pilot partnership, The Shepway School Sport Partnership and South Kent College are looking to appoint an individual (teacher or non teacher) to support the development and delivery of sport for the 16-19 age group.

As a new role the FESCo will look to audit the current provision of sport for this age group and work to implement strategies and schemes focused on widening participation, increasing opportunity and improving both intra and inter college competition.

The successful candidate will have a passion for sport and have experience of working within either an education or sports development setting. They will have excellent interpersonal skills, hold the ability to be part of a team whilst also working on their own initiative. They will have the determination and commitment to make a difference and have a true belief in the value of sport.

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is Wednesday 7th May 2008.

For further information and an application pack for the above vacancy, please contact the Human Resources Department on either 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.
We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment.
Applications are welcome form suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

SKC South Kent College ASHFORD • DOVER • FOLKESTONE

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Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2007-June 2008) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2007-June 2008) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2007-June 2008). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of the TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
18. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
19. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
20. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.

    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract.

    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.

    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.

    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.

    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
21. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
22. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
23. All private advertisement and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
24. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
25. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
26. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from March 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS media
Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

Gravesham Borough Council

Communities
Customer and Theatre Services

Catering Supervisor

Salary: Circa £17,000 – £19,000

An enthusiastic, self motivated supervisor is required to head up a busy catering team at the Woodville Halls Theatre. You will oversee the day to day running of a well appointed bar and Spotlites cafe, as well as catering for a variety of functions and corporate events at the Civic Centre.

You will hold a current Basic Health and Hygiene Certificate and preferably have experience in a supervisory role. A recognised qualification would be an advantage.

A good working knowledge of budgets, stock control procedures and customer care are also essential. **Ref: CS/AT** Closing date is: **9 May, 2008.**

Commissionaire

Salary: Circa £6,500 – £8,500 pa, including unsocial hours payment
2 part time posts – 18.5 hours per week on a rota basis

The postholders will be responsible for providing an out of hours meet & greet and security service to the Civic Centre and Woodville Halls, on a shift basis which will involve an element of a lone-working.

The ideal candidate will be a good team player with experience of working in a customer facing role. Good communication and IT skills are essential as well as the ability to work under pressure.

Knowledge of health and safety and/or experience working in a cleaning and/or caretaking role would be an advantage. **Ref:C/AT** Closing date is: **9 May, 2008.**

Communities
Customer Services

Part time Administrative Assistant

Salary: Circa £6,500 –£8,000
Part time post – 20 hours per week, Mon – Fri, 1 – 5pm

We are looking for a part time Administrative Assistant to undertake a variety of administration tasks and assist with internal and external enquires within the customer services department.

Working as part of a dedicated, multiskilled team you will possess good administrative and customer service skills, be competent in Word, Excel and Outlook Express and have a flexible approach to the role.

Applicants should be available to provide additional cover during peak periods and sickness when necessary. **Ref: AA/AT** Closing date is: **9 May, 2008.**

Part time Customer Service Officers

Salary: Circa £15,500 – £18,500 pro rata
Post A: Mon – Fri, 8.45am – 1.00pm
Post B: Mon – Fri, 12:30pm – 4.00pm

As part of a dedicated, multi skilled team these posts are based in our state of the art Customer Contact Centre and involve dealing with customers via telephone, face to face and written communication.

Successful applicants will have excellent customer service and communication skills, a professional approach together with a working knowledge of IT and the ability to adapt and learn IT systems quickly.

Experience of working within a customer facing role and working to deadlines often under pressure is also essential.

Applicants will be required to attend a short skills assessment as part of the selection process. **Ref: CSO/AT** Closing date is: **9 May, 2008.**

Housing and Environment
Housing Contracts

Surveyor (Contracts)

Salary: Circa £24,000 to £29,500

Gravesham Borough Council is currently looking to recruit an experienced Housing Surveyor to join a small team at Brookvale Depot in Northfleet.

Gravesham has a housing stock of 6000 with 2 strategic partners delivering services to complete the Capital and Revenue expenditure programmes. You will be involved in the organisation and monitoring of building related projects and schemes and will assist in the delivery of the Capital works, Decent Homes and revenue programmes.

You will hold an HNC (Building) or equivalent with extensive experience in social housing maintenance.

The position is subject to successful CRB clearance. A clean current driving license is essential. **Ref: CT/CS** Closing date is: **16 May, 2008.**

Supervisor – Gas/Energy

Salary: Circa £21,500 to £25,500

Gravesham Borough Council is currently looking to recruit a Gas/Energy Surveyor to manage the cyclical gas servicing for 6000 properties currently carried under a partnership agreement. You will be required to supervise 300 new gas central heating installations each year, as well as identifying energy saving initiatives and implementing these initiatives to improve the SAP rating of the Council's housing stock.

You will possess Corgi/ACS or compatible gas safety certification or a pertinent higher qualification and have experience of managing or assisting with the management of gas service, safety and installation work relating to housing stock.

The position is subject to successful CRB clearance. A clean current driving license is essential. **Ref: SGE/CT** Closing date is: **16 May, 2008.**

For an application form and job description please contact:
Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Telephone: 01474 33 70 00

Email: customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk

Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The Council also operates a no smoking policy.

Beacon Council 2005-2006 Promoting Racial Equality 2001-2002 Town Centre Regeneration

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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Publications & Design Officer
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum — Post Ref: 08/25

Trainer Demonstrator Business
18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum — Post Ref: 08/46

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of ICT, Retail and Commercial, Leisure and Tourism, Business & Law
37 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time.
Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum — Post Ref: 08/66

Recruitment Officer
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum — Post Ref: RO2

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.
The closing date for the above posts Monday 12 May at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

Sevenoaks District Council

Sevenoaks District Council is classed as an 'Excellent Council' according to the Audit Commission. The Council is also a Times newspaper 'Best Council to work for' awards winner, the Local Government Chronicle 'Finance award' winner and has 'Investors in People' status

Community and Planning Services Department
Sevenoaks Direct Services

Street Sweeper/Driver Ref:CS.807

£15,027 p.a. to £18,316 p.a. rising to £19,442 p.a.
with exceptional performance (pay award pending)
plus a final salary contributory pension scheme

You will be a part of the team maintaining the cleanliness of the streets within the Sevenoaks District Council area, and be based at Dunbrik Depot, Sundridge.
You will need to be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post, presentable in appearance and prepared to work as part of a team. You will be working a 37 hour week and you must hold a driving licence that allows you to drive a vehicle up to 7.5 tonnes.

Mobile Office/Public Convenience Cleaners x3 Ref:CS.911

£15,027 p.a. to £18,316 p.a. rising to £19,442 p.a.
with exceptional performance (pay award pending)
plus a final salary contributory pension scheme

Sevenoaks District Council provides high quality toilet and office cleaning services across the District and under contract to neighbouring boroughs and Parish Councils.
Your duties will involve the daily cleaning of offices and public conveniences to a specified standard. This will include WC's, basins & urinals, as well as walls, floors, ceilings etc and the removal of graffiti. You will also be expected to restock the facilities with toilet rolls, soap, paper towels etc and be required to record faults and problems and report these to a Supervisor.
You will have use of a Council van to carry out your duties, therefore you must be able to drive and hold a full, clean UK driving licence.
You will be part of a team, but will work independently, and will therefore be reliable and responsible with a flexible approach and able to use initiative.
You will be expected to work on a rota basis which includes early and late shifts including Saturday and Sunday working, with split shifts to maintain daily cleaning standards. Basic working hours are 37 hours per week with overtime or fixed rate payments for hours worked in excess of this.
You will be committed to customer care and delivering a quality service.
Although not essential, knowledge of Hygiene Best Practice and COSHH regulations would be desirable.
For an informal discussion about these posts, please contact John Cox, Cleansing Manager on 01959 567375.
Our staff benefits package includes, a final salary contributory pension scheme, flexible annual leave and working arrangements, free membership of Sencio's Leisure Centres in the District, a childcare vouchers scheme and excellent training and development opportunities.
To apply on-line please visit our website @ www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/jobs You may also contact the Human Resources Team for an Information pack and application form by calling the recruitment voicemail on 01732 227102 (24 hours) or by e-mailing recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk quoting the reference number.
Closing date: Tuesday 6th May 2008 Interview date: Thursday 15th & Friday 16th May 2008

Sevenoaks District Council is committed to being an Equal Opportunities Employer

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Kent County Council

Area Team Leader - Primary Mental Health Project Manager

Starting salary £26,159 with progression through contribution related pay to £29,920 per annum
Swale

Do you have experience of and commitment to working with young people, and could you support and offer guidance to other colleagues?

We are seeking to appoint a Team Leader who is bright, full of ideas and enjoys using their initiative, to join our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

The primary function of this role is to establish and support Kent Safe Schools Primary Mental Health Project, a new initiative targeted at young people in Swale schools and working closely with teachers, Health professional and CAMHS workers. You would work with multi-agencies, schools, parents, children and young people with the intention of making schools a safer environment for young people, and to facilitate the referral of young people through schools into mental health support programmes.

In addition to the Project Manager duties, the Area Team Leader will be expected to work closely with all agencies, schools and communities to identify networking opportunities and establish firm partnerships. You will take a shared responsibility for supporting other staff delivering in the same area, with a particular focus on the co-ordination of services, induction and training.

We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues who posses experience of working with young people, ideally in primary phase. **Ref: CFE/08/0147**

Closing date: Midday, 8th May 2008.

Partnership with Parents

Starting salary £26,159, with progression through contribution related pay to £29,920 per annum (pro rata for temporary post)
Shepway Centre, Maidstone

We are looking to recruit people with exceptional communication skills who are committed to promoting good communication between parents, schools and agencies and increasing parental involvement.

You will need excellent oral and written communication skills, experience of developing partnerships with a wide range of people and experience of working with parents.

Partnership with Parents Development Officer - Parent Forums

Temporary/Secondment opportunity until April 2009

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills. We have been contracted by the Extended Schools Service to set up Parent Forums in each LCSP/Cluster. Do you have the skills to help us? Experience of managing projects is essential. **Ref: CFE/08/0161**

Partnership with Parents Development Officer

Full time post

This is an exciting opportunity for you to join our team at a time of significant development. We are an arm's length service providing an impartial advice and support service to parents and carers of children with additional needs.

We also work closely with schools, services and agencies to promote parental involvement.

We believe that good communication between all those involved in a child's education is key to good relationships which will help children achieve. Experience of delivering training and knowledge of AEN and SEN processes is essential. **Ref: CFE/08/0162**
Supervision will be provided for both posts.

Closing date for the above two posts: Midday, 8th May 2008.

The above posts are all subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Personnel Assistant

Starting salary £16,627 with progression through contribution related pay to £18,288 pro rata
Brook House, Whitstable

The Schools' Personnel Service provides a comprehensive personnel service to schools across Kent. This includes giving advice on terms and conditions of employment, producing contracts and liaising with the schools' payroll providers.

We require a part-time Personnel Assistant (job share), working 22 hours per week - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

We are looking for good team workers, educated to GCSE level or equivalent, to join our busy, hard working and friendly team. A high degree of tact and confidentiality is required as well as an ability to organise and prioritise work; keep calm under pressure and work to deadlines.

Previous personnel experience would be an advantage but not essential, as full training is given. **Ref: CED/08/0049**

Closing date: Midday, 7th May 2008.

To apply for any of these posts, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote appropriate reference number.

A great place to work.
Our services aren't the same, so neither are our people.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

HADLOW COLLEGE

Innovation Experience Excellence

Hadlow College is Kent's premier land-based college and one of the top three such colleges in the United Kingdom.

The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with a 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers.

Technical Instructor, Dog Grooming

£15,888 to £18,569 p.a.

Working as a member of the Animal Management Team, we are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated full-time Technical Instructor to work with our Dog Grooming Lecturer supporting the teaching and increasing the dog grooming client base and provision.

We are currently building a state-of-the-art Dog Grooming centre providing leading facilities and outstanding learning environment. The successful applicant will be actively involved in this exciting project.

You will also provide demonstration and practical instruction in basic grooming skills to Further Education students. You will be expected to carry out appropriate assessments as well as provide technical assistance to teaching staff, assist with the care of the dogs and maintenance of the resources.

As well as being enthusiastic, flexible and a team player, the successful candidate will need:

- previous relevant practical experience
- excellent written and verbal communication skills
- well developed interpersonal skills
- sound organisational, IT and administration skills
- a recognised dog grooming qualification, or the willingness to work towards one.

As well as contributory pension scheme, sponsorship for further vocational & teacher training, Corporate Membership of local leisure centres and free car parking, this post also attracts 5 weeks holiday each year (excluding bank holidays).

To receive an information pack and application form please telephone the Human Resources Department on 01732 850551 or e-mail us at 'jobs@hadlow.ac.uk'.

Closing date is Monday, 12 May 2008.

Interviews on Friday, 30th May 2008.

Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk

Hadlow College is a committed equal opportunities employer.

MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Medway Serving You

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Burnt Oak Primary School
KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 12 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Gill Perry, Headteacher
Burnt Oak Primary School
Cornwall Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1LP
Telephone - (01634) 852991
Fax - 01634 571283
Email
office@burntoak.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School
Foundation Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Diana Parker, Office Manager
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive
Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email office@
fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School
Year 3
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Diana Parker, Office Manager
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive, Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Tel: 01634 338710
Email office@
fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Gordon Junior School
KS2 Teacher (Responsibility for Literacy)
Salary: MPS + TLR 2b - £3940
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 13 May 2008
Please contact
Mrs Ellen Wilson, Headteacher
GordonJunior School
Gordon Road, Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3HQ
Telephone - (01634) 719971
Fax - 01634 290337
Email headteacher@
gordon-jun.medway.sch.uk

Hempstead Junior School
Key Stage 2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Temporary
Term of contract: Maternity Cover
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mr David Bignell, Headteacher
Hempstead Junior School
Birch Grove, Hempstead
Gillingham
Kent ME7 3SD
Telephone - (01634) 371823
Fax - 01634 233328
Email office@
hempsteadjnr.medway.sch.uk

The Pilgrim School
KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Field, Office Manager
The Pilgrim School
Warwick Cresent, Borstal
Rochester
Kent ME1 3LF
Telephone - (01634) 841873
Email
office@pilgrim.medway.sch.uk

Elaine Primary
KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Closing Date: 9 May 2008
Required From: 1 September 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Lynn Garnham, Headteacher
Elaine Primary
Elaine Avenue
Strood
Kent ME2 2YN
Telephone - (01634) 718057
E-mail Headteacher@
elaine.medway.sch.uk

Twydall Infant
Foundation Stage 2 / Key Stage 1 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs. S. Fedosiuk
Headteacher
Twydall Infants
Twydall Lane
Gillingham
Kent ME8 6JS
Telephone - (01634) 231761
Fax - 01634 260144
Email headteacher@
twydallinf.medway.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher

Fairview Community Primary School
Deputy Headteacher
Salary: L12-L16 +relocation package
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Debbie Willis, Headteacher
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive, Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email headteacher@
fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Elaine Primary
Deputy Headteacher
Salary: L10-L14 (£43,656-£48,138)
Full Time and Permanent
Closing Date: 6 May 2008
Required From: 1 September 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Lynn Garnham, Headteacher
Elaine Primary
Elaine Avenue
Strood
Kent ME2 2YN
Telephone - (01634) 718057
E-mail Headteacher@
elaine.medway.sch.uk

Headteacher

Maundene School
Headteacher
Salary: L20-L26 £55,782-£64,611
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
Please contact:
Sue Bowers, Medway Council
Civic Centre
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 4AU
Tel: 01634 331100
Email vacancies@medway.gov.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

The Thomas Aveling School
Teacher of English
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required from: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/ more information
Mr R Hart, Headteacher
The Thomas Aveling School
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent, ME1 2UW
Telephone: 01634 844809
Fax: 01634 818385
Email: office:thomasaveling.co.uk

Greenacre School
Teacher of PE
Full Time and permanent
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese, Headteacher
Greenacre School
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
E-mail
office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

Fort Pitt Grammar
Teacher of Religious Education
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs L Maile, Headteacher's P.A
Fort Pitt Grammar
Fort Pit Hill
Chatham
Kent ME4 6TJ
Telephone - (01634) 842359
Fax - 01634817376
Email headteacher@
fortpitt.medway.sch.uk

Fort Pitt Grammar
Teacher of Chemistry
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs L Maile, Headteacher's P.A
Fort Pitt Grammar, Fort Pit Hill,Chatham
Kent ME4 6TJ
Telephone - (01634) 842359
Fax - 01634817376
Email headteacher@
fortpitt.medway.sch.uk

Fort Pitt Grammar
Teacher of Psychology
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs L Maile, Headteacher's P.A
Fort Pitt Grammar
Fort Pit Hill
Chatham
Kent ME4 6TJ
Telephone - (01634) 842359
Fax - 01634817376
Email: headteacher@
fortpitt.medway.sch.uk

Rainham Mark Grammar
Teacher of Art
Salary: MPS / UPS
Full Time and Permanent (Part time considered)
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008
To apply/more information
School Office
Rainham Mark Grammar
Pump Lane
Gillingham
Kent ME8 7AJ
Telephone - (01634) 364151
Fax - 01634 260209
Email - office@
rainhammark.medway.sch.uk

Rainham School for Girls
Teacher of Science/ Health and Social Care
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Francis, Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way, Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

Rainham School for Girls
Teacher of Music
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 12 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Francis, Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way, Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Teacher of English (to be responsible for KS3 English)
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2c
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's
Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Teacher of History
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's
Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Teacher of Mathematics
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's
Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Teacher of Law
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
St John Fisher Catholic
Comprehensive School
Ordanance Street, Chatham
Kent ME4 6DP
Telephone - (01634) 842811
Email headteacher@
st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive
Teacher of Science
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo, Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive
Teacher of Maths
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden,
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo, Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Thomas Aveling School
Teacher of Business Studies
Salary: MPS / UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mr R Hart, Headteacher
Arethusa Road, Rochester
Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Fax - 01634 818385
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

Assistant Faculty Leader

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Assistant Faculty Leader of Religious Education
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
St John Fisher Catholic
Comprehensive School
Ordanance Street, Chatham
Kent ME4 6DP
Telephone - (01634) 842811
Email headteacher@
st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

Assistant Curriculum Leader

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive
Assistant Curriculum leader (Technology)
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo, Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Advanced Skills Teacher

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
AST Technology
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's
Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Head of Department

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Head of Chemistry
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2b
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Headteacher's PA
Sir Joseph Williamson's
Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
Rochester, Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
Fax - 01634 818303
Email office@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Walderslade Girls School
Head of Business Studies
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2B
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue
Walderslade, Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Email Headteacher@
waldersladegirls.medway.sch.uk

Curriculum Leader

Rainham School for Girls
Curriculum Leader - Geography
Salary: MPS/UPS +TLR 2b (£4,037)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Francis
Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way, Rainham
Gillingham, Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive
Curriculum leader - Science
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Subject Leader

Greenacre School
Subject Leader in English
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese
Headteacher
Greenacre School
(A Specialist Sports College)
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
Fax - 01634 869246
Email:
office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

The Thomas Aveling School
Subject Leader for Business Studies with a responsibility for Enterprise Education
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2a (£5778)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mr R Hart, Headteacher
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Fax - 01634 818385
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

Deputy Headteacher / Curriculum Manager

Walderslade Girls School
Deputy Headteacher / Curriculum Manager
Salary: L16 - L20
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 1 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs P Conibeer, Headteacher
Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Fax - 01634 869246
Email headteacher@
waldersladegirls.medway.sch.uk

SEN

Abbey Court Community Special School
SEN Teacher
Salary: MPS + 2 SEN Points
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Linda Taylor, Abbey Court
Community Special School
Rede Court Road, Strood
Rochester,Kent ME2 3SP
Telephone - (01634) 338224
Fax - 01634 295369
Email
office@abbeycourt.med.sch.uk

Abbey Court Community Special School
SEN Teacher to lead KS4/5 (Further Education)
Salary: MPS + TLR 2 (£5778) + 2 SEN
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Linda Taylor, Abbey Court
Community Special School
Rede Court Road, Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3SP
Telephone - (01634) 338224
Fax - 01634 295369
Email
office@abbeycourt.med.sch.uk

Bradfields School
Assistant Head - Pupil Development
Salary: Leadership scale 10 - 14
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Gill Ellen
Bradfields School
Churchill Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LB
Telephone - (01634) 683990
Fax - 01634 828284
Email
office@bradfields.medway.sch.uk

www.medway.gov.uk/teachingcareers

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

WEST HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

DARTFORD ROAD, DARTFORD, KENT DA1 3DZ
TEL: 01322 226019 FAX: 01322 220121
E.mail: office@west-hill.kent.sch.uk

Required from September 2008: ***Two Posts:***

Key Stage 1 Teacher MPS (Permanent)

Key Stage 2 Teacher MPS (Permanent)

Do you wish to join a lively, talented and friendly staff?

We are seeking to appoint two enthusiastic and talented teachers to work in Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2. Applications from both experienced teachers and NQTs would be warmly welcomed.

Applicants should have high expectations for pupils' learning and behaviour. The ability to work in a team is essential. Applicants must be prepared to build on the educational progress of the children and to contribute positively to the ethos of the school's community.

Applicants are asked to state their curriculum interests. The school is well supported by the community it serves. The school has developed links with business and the international community. The school holds an International Award, Healthy Schools Award and the Active Mark.

If you would like to learn more about the school, please send for an information pack. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

Completed application forms should be forwarded to the headteacher by 9th May 2008.

This post is subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure.

Colyer Road
Northfleet, Gravesend
Kent DA11 8BG
Head: John Hassett MA

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, we wish to offer the following Trainee placements on the Graduate Teacher Programme. Required for September 2008.

• Science • Mathematics • Music

This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast. NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details.

An application form can be obtained by telephone 01474 533802 Ext 201, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: Tuesday 6 May 2008.

Is one of Kent's leading education recruitment agencies

TEACHERS

Required now for supply and long term work in your local area

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Call for an immediate interview

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www.classiceducation.co.uk

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Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff, efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

TEACHER FOR PUPILS WITH SEVERE AND PROFOUND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES TO COMMENCE SEPT 2008

MPS + 2 SEN Points +
TLR 2C (with previous experience) £2364

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 9th May 2008

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338224) Stating the position for which you are applying

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff, efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

TEACHER TO LEAD KEY STAGES 4 & 5 (FURTHER EDUCATION) COMMENCING SEPT 2008, IN THIS PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL FOR PUPILS WITH SEVERE AND PROFOUND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES.

MPS + TLR 2 (£5778) + 2 SEN Points

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 9th May 2008

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338224)

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100s of Kent Jobs online

ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAL, PA

JOB TITLE:
Mailing List Researcher required
LOCATION:
Hythe
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Evegate Publishing
9.30 to 2.30 Monday to Friday (flexi-time considered) Regional business magazine South East Business requires a Mailing List Researcher, to manage data entries for new and existing readers. The suitable applicant will have a confident telephone manner, experience of data entry and administration skills, as well as the ability to research information from a variety of different sources. You must be self-motivated and it is essential that you are able to work on your own initiative. South East Business, published by Evegate Publishing Ltd is based in Lympne near Hythe, offering a friendly working environment, good rates of pay and excellent staff facilities. Send CV to Jamie McGrorty at Evegate Publishing Ltd, Spicer House, Link Business Park, Lympne Hythe Kent CT21 4LR or email.
TO APPLY:
Jamie McGrorty
Evegate Publishing
Email jamie@southeastbusiness.net

JOB TITLE:
Personnel Assistant
LOCATION:
Whitstable
SALARY:
Starting salary £16,627 with progression through contribution related pay to £18,288 pro rata
COMPANY:
Kent County Council
The Schools' Personnel Service provides a comprehensive personnel service to schools across Kent. This includes giving advice on terms and conditions of employment, producing contracts and liaising with the schools' payroll providers. We require a part-time Personnel Assistant (job share), working 22 hours per week - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We are looking for good team workers, educated to GCSE level or equivalent, to join our busy, hard working and friendly team. A high degree of tact and confidentiality is required as well as an ability to organise and prioritise work; keep calm under pressure and work to deadlines. Previous personnel experience would be an advantage but not essential, as full training is given. To apply for any of these posts, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs. Alternatively, please email or call us.
TO APPLY:
Kent County Council
Tel: 0845 8247 904
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Plant Hire Assistant
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
Negotiable
COMPANY:
GSE Group
Organised person with good telephone skills required to assist in busy Plant Hire office based in Ashford. Candidates should have good computer and communication skills and be flexible enough to prioritise as required. Previous experience in plant or tool hire would be useful but training will be given to the right candidate. Hours: 8.30 to 5.30 Monday to Friday. Please submit your CV with a covering letter to Mrs. Sue Barlow, GSE Group HR Manager, Joshna House, Crowbridge Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 0GR or sue.barlow@gse-group.com
CLOSING DATE
for applications is 2nd May 2008
TO APPLY:
Sue Barlow
GSE Group
Tel: 01233 501301
Email sue.barlow@gse-group.com

CATERING, HOSPITALITY

JOB TITLE:
Assistant Food and Beverage Manager
LOCATION:
Margate
SALARY:
up to £23K,
COMPANY:
Thanet Leisure Force
Winter Gardens 40 hours per week, including regular evening and weekend work Applicants must have at least 2 years operational experience gained within a busy, high standard food and beverage environment,Able to demonstrate extensive bar and catering management experience, quality customer service, team leadership and effective communication skills the successful candidate will have a working knowledge of health, safety and hygiene (ideally qualified in support of these requirements) and a full driving license.
TO APPLY:
Thanet Leisure Force
Tel: 01843 227959
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
28th April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Casual Food and Beverages Assistant
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
yes dining
To help with food and beverage service and to provide excellent customer service to our guests. Competitive rates of pay. Please telephone in the first instance.
TO APPLY:
Denise Collins
yes dining
Tel: 01622 626688
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Catering Assistant
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Age Concern
Required to help with the extension of our Fresh Meal Delivery Service to incorporate an Asian menu. This position would suit someone with a good knowledge of Asian home cooking. Hours of work 12 per week, to incorporate some weekends. All positions require a Criminal Records Bureau check, which will be provided. Please phone for an application form and job description. Age Concern Gravesend is an Equal Opportunities Employer
TO APPLY:
Age Concern
Tel: 01474 564898 or 01474 567131
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Chef de partie, sous chef, kitchen porters
LOCATION:
Ramsgate
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
Age & Sons
Chef de partie, sous chef, kitchen porters wanted for new restaurant in Ramsgate
TO APPLY:
Age & Sons
Tel: 07919 124 985
Email harrietleigh@gmail.com

JOB TITLE:
Receptionist / Conference Host
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
yes dining
Well presented individual to host reception, welcome conference guests, check in and out and provide exceptional service standards. Experience in Hotel industry would be preferred although full training can be given to the right candidate. Competitive salary along with benefits.
TO APPLY:
Denise Collins
yes dining
Tel: 01622 626688
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Sous Chef
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
yes dining
Conference Centre in Kent seeks dedicated Sous Chef. This busy operation popular for Weddings and Banquets is looking for a Sous Chef to deputise for the Head Chef and develop this already outstanding team. Straight Shifts, excellent salary and benefits.
TO APPLY:
Denise Collins
yes dining
Tel: 01622 626688
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE, SURVEYORS

JOB TITLE:
Assistant Contracts Surveyor
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
£25,000 pa
COMPANY:
Serco Local Government
Required to assist with tenders, invoicing, estimating and valuations. Building related qualification (minimum requirement). CV to: Personnel Department, Serco Limited Kingsmead Road, Canterbury CT1 1SZ
TO APPLY:
Serco Local Government
Tel: 01227 819464
Email
antony.mckean@canterbury.serco.com
CLOSING DATE
30th April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Contracts Manager
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
Negotiable
COMPANY:
GSE Group
GSE Design & Build Ltd require a motivated and enthusiastic Contracts Manager with a proven track record. The successful candidate will be responsible for running 3/4 prestigious contracts with values to £8m, manage major projects and develop further business opportunities, mainly in the Kent area. An excellent package is offered to the right candidate. Applications with CV should be submitted by letter or e-mail to: Mrs. Sue Barlow, GSE Group HR Manager, Joshna House, Crowbridge Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 0GR or sue.barlow@gse-group.com. No Agencies please.
TO APPLY:
Sue Barlow
GSE Group
Tel: 01233 506320
Email sue.barlow@gse-group.com

JOB TITLE:
Contracts Surveyor
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
Negotiable
COMPANY:
GSE Group
GSE Design & Build Ltd require a highly motivated Contracts Surveyor to measure and manage a diverse portfolio of traditional and design & build projects in Kent. Candidates should have appropriate experience in appointing sub-contractors and the production of monthly valuations and final accounts. A competitive package is offered to the right candidate. Applications with CV should be submitted by letter or e-mail to: Mrs. Sue Barlow, GSE Group HR Manager, Joshna House, Crowbridge Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 0GR or sue.barlow@gse-group.com.
CLOSING DATE
Friday 25th April 2008. No Agencies please.
TO APPLY:
Sue Barlow
GSE Group
Tel: 01233 506320
Email sue.barlow@gse-group.com

JOB TITLE:
Contracts Surveyor
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
GSE Group
GSE are the South East's leading Design & Build Company and with a healthy long term order book now require a Highly motivated Contracts Surveyor to measure and manage a diverse portfolio of traditional and design & build projects in Kent. Candidates should have appropriate experience in appointing sub-contractors and the production of monthly valuations and final accounts. Excellent package offered to the right candidates.
TO APPLY:
Mrs. S. Barlow,
GSE Group
Email sue.barlow@gse-group.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE, CALL CENTRE

JOB TITLE:
Service Advisor
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Dutton Forshaw Maidstone
We are looking for a Service Advisor based at Dutton Forshaw Maidstone dealership to help run our multi franchise service reception. Experience not essential as full training will be provided. We are looking for someone that could deliver good customer skills and an excellent sales technique and also a willingness to deliver an excellent customer experience. The hours are 7.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, working alternate Saturdays. In the first instance please send your CV to Dutton Forshaw Maidstone, Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9YN
TO APPLY:
Stuart Holness
Dutton Forshaw Maidstone
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

DOMESTIC

JOB TITLE:
Assistants
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Age Concern
Required for our Independent Living Service to undertake light domestic duties, taking clients shopping, to the theatre, for a pub lunch and other services etc. Hours are to suit client needs. Applicants must be Owner/Drivers. Please phone for an application form and job description. Age Concern Gravesend is an Equal Opportunities Employer.
TO APPLY:
Age Concern
Tel: 01474 564898 or 01474 567131
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Caretaker
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
£13,959 - £15,826 pro rata
COMPANY:
Wilmington Enterprise College
52 weeks (hours negotiable). To join our existing team responsible for security, caretaking, cleaning, painting and general maintenance needs of the school. To start as soon as possible. Kent Scheme 3 Points 7-11 (£13,959 - £15,826 pro rata). Please contact the school for application form and further details.
TO APPLY:
Wilmington Enterprise College
Tel: 01322 272111
Email admin@wec.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
6th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Cleaner wanted
LOCATION:
Ramsgate
SALARY:
£8.00 per hour.
COMPANY:
Simon Wallis
Cleaner wanted for holiday flat in Ramsgate. 4 hours on Saturdays and occasional Mondays. Must be thorough with good attention to detail. Must supply references.
TO APPLY:
Deborah
Simon Wallis
Tel: 07890 266 203
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Domestic Saturday Work
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Country Care
A Residential Home for adults with learning disabilities require a Domestic for Saturday work. Please contact Mrs Brooks below.
TO APPLY:
Mrs Brooks
Country Care
Tel: 01795 886220
Email ellenscourt@btconnect.com

JOB TITLE:
Mobile Office/Public Convenience Cleaners x3
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
£15,027 p.a. to £18,316 p.a. rising to £19,442 p.a.
COMPANY:
Sevenoaks District Council
Sevenoaks District Council provides high quality toilet and office cleaning services across the District and under contract to neighbouring boroughs and Parish Councils. Your duties will involve the daily cleaning of offices and public conveniences to a specified standard. This will include WC's, basins & urinals, as well as walls, floors, ceilings etc and the removal of graffiti. You will also be expected to restock the facilities with toilet rolls, soap, paper towels etc and be required to record faults and problems and report these to a Supervisor. You will have use of a Council van to carry out your duties, therefore you must be able to drive and hold a full, clean UK driving licence. You will be part of a team, but will work independently, and will therefore be reliable and responsible with a flexible approach and able to use initiative. You will be expected to work on a rota basis which includes early and late shifts including Saturday and Sunday working, with split shifts to maintain daily cleaning standards. Basic working hours are 37 hours per week with overtime or fixed rate payments for hours worked in excess of this. You will be committed to customer care and delivering a quality service. Although not essential, knowledge of Hygiene Best Practice and COSHH regulations would be desirable. For an informal discussion about these posts, please contact John Cox, Cleansing Manager on 01959 567375. Our staff benefits package includes, a final salary contributory pension scheme, flexible annual leave and working arrangements, free membership of Sencio's Leisure Centres in the District, a childcare vouchers scheme and excellent training and development opportunities.
TO APPLY:
the Human Resources Team
Sevenoaks District Council
Tel: 01732 227102 (24 hours)
Email recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
6th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Part Time Evening Cleaning Operatives
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
£5.69 per hour
COMPANY:
Initial Facilities Management
Staff required for a Blue Chip Company in the Dartford area Mon-Fri 5pm-7pm Telephone for details
TO APPLY:
Initial Facilities Management
Tel: 01322 391903
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Property Cleaner
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
£7.50 per hour
COMPANY:
Serco Local Government
Clean after decorating/maintenance completed. Driving Licence. 20 hours pw.
TO APPLY:
Bob Vidler
Serco Local Government
Tel: 01227 819401
Email bvidler@canterbury.serco.com
CLOSING DATE
1st May 08

EDUCATION, TEACHER, SCHOOL

JOB TITLE:
14-19 Co-ordinator
LOCATION:
Aylesford
SALARY:
L10 - 14 pro rata
COMPANY:
Aylesford School - Sports College
The post will suit a consultant who is able to offer 60 days per academic year on a flexible basis or equivalent part-time appointment, Salary Range: L10 -14 pro-rata Required for September 2008 (for 1 year in the first instance) Medway Valley is a Consortium comprising of Aylesford School - Sports College, Malling Holmesdale Federation and Wrotham School. We currently collaborate on post 16 provision. We are now seeking to appoint a an enthusiastic, experienced and suitably qualified person to develop the 14-19 curriculum across the schools. You will: • Have a commitment to improving learning opportunities for young people; • Have considerable teaching experience preferably at a senior level; • Be up to date with developments in the 14 -19 reform programme The schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check. An information pack is available from Aylesford School – Sports College, Teapot Lane, Aylesford, Kent. ME20 7JU. telephone 01622 717341 or email the Headteacher's PA, Jill McKenna jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
for applications: Tuesday 18th March 2008. Interviews will be held the week of the 31st March 2008.
TO APPLY:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
16th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Assistant Curriculum leader (Technology)
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
COMPANY:
Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs K Cruttenden
Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Tel: 01634 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
28 April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Assistant Faculty Leader of Religious Education
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
COMPANY:
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Full time and permanent
TO APPLY:
Mr D Kelly
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Tel: 01634 842811
Email headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
28 April 2008

JOB TITLE:
AST Technology
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Tel: 01634 844008
Email
office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Curriculum leader - Science
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
COMPANY:
Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs K Cruttenden
Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Tel: 01634 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
28 April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Deputy Headteacher
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
L12-L16 +relocation package
COMPANY:
Fairview Community Primary School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Debbie Willis
Fairview Community Primary School
Tel: 01634 338710
Email
headteacher@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
9 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Deputy Headteacher / Curriculum Manager
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
Salary: L16 – L20
COMPANY:
Walderslade Girls' School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs P Conibeer,
Walderslade Girls' School
Tel: 01634 861596
Email
headteacher@waldersladegirls.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
1 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Director of Learning
LOCATION:
Aylesford
SALARY:
Leadership Scale Points 5 - 9
COMPANY:
Aylesford School - Sports College
Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. You are invited to apply for the post of Director of Learning. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:- *A brand new school. *Outstanding new facilities in all areas. *A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. *A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. *A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. The Governors of the School are seeking to appoint a dynamic, ambitious and highly motivated leader to manage and lead one of our 'Schools of Learning'. They should possess significant management skills already as well as leadership potential. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk. Completed application forms should be accompanied by a letter of application including how your experience to date will contribute to the School and specially this developing role.
TO APPLY:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
9th May 08

JOB TITLE:
Foundation Stage 2 / Key Stage 1 Teacher
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Twydall Infant School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs. S. Fedosiuk
Twydall Infant School
Tel: 01634 231761
Email
headteacher@twydallinf.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
9 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Foundation Teacher
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Fairview Community Primary School
Full time and fixed term
TO APPLY:
Diana Parker
Fairview Community Primary School
Tel: 01634 338710
Email
office@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
28 April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Graduate Teacher Programme - Maths/Science/ICT
LOCATION:
Aylesford
SALARY:
tbc
COMPANY:
Aylesford School - Sports College
Aylesford School - Sports College Teapot Lane, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7JU Tel: 01622 717341, Fax: 01622 790580 E-mail: jill.McKenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk ROLL 860 11 – 18 Mixed Foundation Secondary School The School is at an exciting time in its growth, and has moved into its brand new state-of-the-art buildings with purpose-built facilities for all subject areas. We are seeking to appoint suitable candidates to undertake teacher training via the Graduate Teacher Programme. The staff at the School are dedicated, innovative and progressive, together with being supportive of each other at all levels. The School is pro-active in encouraging personal development and career progression. To request an information pack and application form, please contact Jill McKenna on (01622) 717341 ext 204. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Check via the Criminal Records Bureau.
TO APPLY:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
23rd May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Head of Business Studies
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2B
COMPANY:
Walderslade Girls' School
Full time and permanent
TO APPLY:
Walderslade Girls' School
Tel: 01634 861596
Email
headteacher@waldersladegirls.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Head of Chemistry
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2b
COMPANY:
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Tel: 01634 844008
Email
office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Headteacher
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: L20-L26 £55,782-£64,611
COMPANY:
Maundene School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Sue Bowers
Maundene School
Tel: 01634 331100
Email vacancies@medway.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
9 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Higher Level Teaching Assistant
LOCATION:
Dover
SALARY:
Kent Scheme, Band 7, Points 20-24 + SEN Allowance £20,061 - £22,825 (pro-rata £14,794 - £16,837)
COMPANY:
Harbour School
Prospective candidates for a Higher Level Teaching Assistant role should have experience of working in a school environment and in particular covering subject lessons for a teacher. We especially require a highly computer literate/technical support assistant but anyone with experience within a particular subject will be considered. OfSTED describes the school as, "outstanding in all areas", the school has an excellent reputation locally and it provides a challenging, productive and happy learning environment. The school has also gained the "Investors in People" standard and therefore places a high priority on professional and career development. 30hrs per week, term time only For more information and to request an application pack, please contact the school office. Interviews: Monday 12th May 2008 The school requires a completed application form – no CV's accepted.
TO APPLY:
Tony Berresford
Harbour School
Tel: 01304 201964
Email office@harbour.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Key Stage 1 Teacher MPS (Permanent)
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
West Hill Primary School
Do you wish to join a lively talented and friendly staff? We are seeking to appoint two enthusiastic and talented teachers to work in Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2. Applications from both experienced teachers and NQT's would be warmly welcomed. Applicants should have high expectations for pupils' learning and behaviour. The ability to work in a team is essential. Applicants must be prepared to build on the educational progress of the children and to contribute positively to the ethos of the school's community. Applicants are asked to state their curriculum interests. The school is well supported by the community it serves. The school has developed links with business and the international community. The school holds an International Award, Healthy Schools Award and the Active Mark. If you would

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JobsforKent.co.uk

like to learn more about the school, please send for an information pack. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. Completed application forms should be forwarded to the headteacher by 9th May 2008. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure.
TO APPLY:
West Hill Primary School
Tel: 01322 226019
Email office@west-hill.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
9th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Key Stage 2 Teacher
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Hempstead Junior School
Full Time and Temporary Term of contract: Maternity Cover
TO APPLY:
Mr David Bignell
Hempstead Junior School
Tel: 01634 371823
Email
office@hempsteadjnr.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Key Stage 2 Teacher MPS (Permanent)
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
West Hill Primary School
Do you wish to join a lively talented and friendly staff? We are seeking to appoint two enthusiastic and talented teachers to work in Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2. Applications from both experienced teachers and NQT's would be warmly welcomed. Applicants should have high expectations for pupils' learning and behaviour. The ability to work in a team is essential. Applicants must be prepared to build on the educational progress of the children and to contribute positively to the ethos of the school's community. Applicants are asked to state their curriculum interests. The school is well supported by the community it serves. The school has developed links with business and the international community. The school holds an International Award, Healthy Schools Award and the Active Mark. If you would like to learn more about the school, please send for an information pack. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. Completed application forms should be forwarded to the headteacher by . This post is subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure.
TO APPLY:
West Hill Primary School
Tel: 01322 226019
Email office@west-hill.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
9th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
KS2 Teacher
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
The Pilgrim School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs D Field
The Pilgrim School
Tel: 01634 841873
Email office@pilgrim.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
KS2 Teacher
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Elaine Primary School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs Lynn Garnham
Elaine Primary School
Tel: 01634 718057
Email
Headteacher@elaine.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
9th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
KS2 Teacher
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Burnt Oak Primary School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Burnt Oak Primary School
Tel: 01634 852991
Email office@burntoak.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
12 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
KS2 Teacher
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Burnt Oak Primary School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs Gill Perry
Burnt Oak Primary School
Tel: 01634 852991
Email office@burntoak.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
12 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
KS2 Teacher (Responsibility for Literacy
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS + TLR 2b - £3940
COMPANY:
Gordon Junior School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs Ellen Wilson
Gordon Junior School
Tel: 01634 719971
Email headteacher@gordon-jun.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
13 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Part-Time Teacher of Science
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Borden Grammar School
Borden is a vibrant, community orientated boys' grammar school, intent on maximising its pupils' talents and potential. The school is part of a thriving post-16 partnership with two neighbouring schools and has female students in the Sixth Form. • We seek to appoint a part-time teacher of Science for September 2008, between 0.5 and 0.6 of full time equivalent. • Candidates will be asked to teach up to GCSE initially. • The ability to offer junior Mathematics would be useful. • The school gained Sports College status in September 2006 and has an ambitious programme to improve the quality of learning and the learning environment. • An £800,000 modernisation programme including Library and Sixth Form facilities was completed in October 2007. • There are excellent staff/student relationships across the school and very good links and support between departments. For an application pack please contact Mrs Tracey Tummon, Headteacher's Secretary
TO APPLY:
Mrs Tracey Tummon
Borden Grammar School
Tel: 01795 424192
Email tjt@bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
1 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
SEN Teacher
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS + 2 SEN Points
COMPANY:
Abbey Court School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Linda Taylor
Abbey Court School
Tel: 01634 338224
Email office@abbeycourt.med.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
9 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Subject Leader for Business Studies with a responsibility for Enterprise Education
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2a (£5778)
COMPANY:
Thomas Aveling School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mr R Hart
Thomas Aveling School
Tel: 01634 844809
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
9 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Subject Leader in English
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
COMPANY:
Greenacre School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mr A J Reese
Greenacre School
Tel: 01634 861593
Email office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
30 April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Supply Lecturers
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
Salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata pa
COMPANY:
Canterbury College
Various hours are available. If you are a newly-qualified teacher, or an experienced specialist interested in a second career in Further Education,we are keen to hear from you. This is an exciting opportunity to gain valuable experience in the Further Education sector, supply lecturing offers the possibility of part-time hours fitted around your existing commitments, and according to your own specialist skills, qualifications and experience. A teaching qualification is not always essential, however if you do not hold one then we will provide the appropriate training when you join our team. We offer a wide range of both vocational and academic courses - to find out whether your skills match any of those on offer, further details can be found at www.cant-col.ac.uk For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations Close to City Centre Sports Hall and Gym Generous Holiday Allowance Staff Discount Scheme Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010.To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012. Supply Lecturers
TO APPLY:
Canterbury College
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
12 May 08

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Music
LOCATION:
Rainham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Rainham School for Girls
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Personnel Officer
Rainham School for Girls
Tel: 01634 362746
Email admin@rsg.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
12 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Art
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS / UPS
COMPANY:
Rainham Mark Grammar
Full Time and Permanent (Part time considered)
TO APPLY:
School Office
Rainham Mark Grammar
Tel: 01634 364151
Email
office@rainhammark.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Business Studies
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS / UPS
COMPANY:
Thomas Aveling School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mr R Hart
Thomas Aveling School
Tel: 01634 844809
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
9 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Business Studies
LOCATION:
Aylesford
SALARY:
Main Scale
COMPANY:
Aylesford School - Sports College
Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:- "A brand new school. Outstanding new facilities in all areas. "NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none. "A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. "A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. "A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- "Is able to start in September. "Can motivate pupils through the curriculum. "Has the desire to make the difference. "Is focussed on developing their career further. "Is able to teach Business Studies at key stage 4 and 5.
TO APPLY:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
5th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Chemistry
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Fort Pitt Grammar
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs L Maile,
Fort Pitt Grammar
Tel: 01634 842359
Email
headteacher@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of English (to be responsible for KS3 English)
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2c
COMPANY:
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Tel: 01634 844008
Email
office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of History
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Tel: 01634 844008
Email
office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Law
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Full time and permanent
TO APPLY:
Mr D Kelly
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Tel: 01634 842811
Email
headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
28 April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Mathematics
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs Jacqeline Harrison
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Tel: 01634 844008
Email
office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Maths
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs K Cruttenden,
Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Tel: 01634 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of PE
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Greenacre School
Full Time and permanent
TO APPLY:
Mr A J Reese
Greenacre School
Tel: 01634 861593
Email office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
30 April 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Psychology
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Fort Pitt Grammar
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs L Maile,
Fort Pitt Grammar
Tel: 01634 842359
Email
headteacher@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Religious Education
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Fort Pitt Grammar
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs L Maile,
Fort Pitt Grammar
Tel: 01634 842359
Email
headteacher@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Science
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Salary: MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Full Time and Permanent
TO APPLY:
Mrs K Cruttenden,
Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Tel: 01634 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of Science
LOCATION:
Aylesford
SALARY:
Main Scale
COMPANY:
Aylesford School - Sports College
Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:- "A brand new school. "Outstanding new facilities in all areas. "NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none. "A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. "Your own laptop. "A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. "A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- "Is able to start in September. "Can motivate pupils through the curriculum. "Has the desire to make the difference. "Is focussed on developing their career further. "Is able to teach Science at key stage 3 and 4.
TO APPLY:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
09/05/2008

JOB TITLE:
Teaching Assistant
LOCATION:
Dover
SALARY:
Kent Scheme, Band 3, Points 7-11 + SEN Allowance £13,959 - £15,826 (pro-rata to £10,618 - £12,001)
COMPANY:
Harbour School
Prospective candidates wishing to apply for a Teaching Assistant role should be bright, full of ideas and enjoy using their own initiative. Experience of working in a school environment with special needs pupils in particular, would be an advantage. 30hrs per week, term time only. For more information and to request an application pack, please contact the school office. Interviews: Monday 12th May 2008 The school requires a completed application form – no CV's accepted.
TO APPLY:
Tony Berresford
Harbour School
Tel: 01304 201964
Email office@harbour.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Technical Instructor, Dog Grooming
LOCATION:
Medway
SALARY:
£15,888 to £18,569 pa
COMPANY:
Hadlow College
Working as a member of the Animal Management Tean, we are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated full-time Technical Instructor to work with our Dog Grooming Lecturer supporting the teaching and increasing the dog grooming client base and provision. We are currently building a start of the art Dog Grooming centre providing leading facilities and outstanding learning environment, The successful applicant will be actively involved in this exciting project. You will also provide demonstration and practical instruction in basic grooming skills for Further Eductaion students. You will be expected to carry out appropriate assessments as well as provide technical assistance to teaching staff, assist with the care of the dogs and maintenance of the resources. As well as being enthusiastic, flexible and a team player, the successful candidate will need: previous relevant practical experience, excellent written and verbal communication skills, well developed interpersonal skills, sound organisational, IT and administration skills, a recognised dog grooming qualification, or the williness to work towards one.
TO APPLY:
Hadlow College
Tel: 01732 850551
Email jobs@hadlow.ac.uk
CLOSING DATE
12th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
technician / Instructor Design and Technology
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
Salary Kent Scheme 4 £15,826
COMPANY:
Wilmington Enterprise College
Required as soon as possible. 37 hours per week for 41 weeks per year. Salary Kent Scheme 4 £15,826 - £16,627 (pro rata). To support teaching and learning in Design and Technology and following appropriate training to cover for absent teachers on short term sickness. Further detail available from the school.
TO APPLY:
Wilmington Enterprise College
Tel: 01322 272111
Email admin@wec.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
6th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Year 3 Teacher
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Fairview Community Primary School
Full time and fixed term
TO APPLY:
Diana Parker
Fairview Community Primary School
Tel: 01634 338710
Email
office@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, UTILITIES

JOB TITLE:
Full Time Electronics Technician
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
Alpha Electronics (Southern) Ltd
required for busy test equipment recalibration and repair company. Knowledge of Electronic test equipment preferable. Competitive salary depending on experience plus bonus. Hours 8.30 to 4.30 Mon-Thurs, 8.30 to 4.00 Fri. Send CV to Mr A Willis, Alpha Electronics (Southern) Ltd, Unit 16 Wren Ind. Estate, Coldred Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9YT
TO APPLY:
Mr A Willis,
Alpha Electronics (Southern) Ltd
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Goods Inwards / Stores Operative
LOCATION:
Whitstable
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Woodfield Systems Ltd
Woodfield Systems Limited manufactures and supplies fluid transfer equipment (Marine Loading Arms) to the oil and petrochemical industry worldwide. We are currently seeking a full-time Goods Inwards/Stores Operative, to cover all aspects of a busy Stores environment. Duties include the booking in and checking of goods received. Selecting goods in accordance with requisitions and lists. Loading and unloading goods to/from delivery vehicles. Reporting damages and deviations. To be systematic with documentation, and to be generally tidy and organised within the Stores area. The successful candidate should be familiar with safe working practices, with at least five years working experience within an Engineering Goods Inward environment. Fork truck licence would be an advantage. Please apply in writing or e-mail with C.V. Woodfield Systems Limited Tyler Way, Swalecliffe, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2RS
TO APPLY:
Angela White
Woodfield Systems Ltd
Tel: 01227 793351
Email angela.white@akerkvaerner.com

JOB TITLE:
Test Engineer
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
Integrated Technologies Ltd
ITL is a specialist engineering company with 35 years of experience in contract medical, diagnostic and analytical instrument design and manufacture. We currently have a vacancy for an experienced and qualified Test Engineer to join our busy Manufacturing department. For a full job description and application form please see our website or call Vicki Newman. 01233 638383
TO APPLY:
Vicki Newman
Integrated Technologies Ltd
Tel: 01233 638383
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Trainee Machinist
LOCATION:
N/A
SALARY:
Salary around £16,000 p.a. depending on experience.
COMPANY:
AEM Ltd
to work as part of the team in the Machining and Plating workshops, using lathes, drills, mills and honing machines to overhaul landing gears and related aircraft components. The successful candidate will ideally have previous experience working with lathes and general machining equipment but, above all, will be willing to learn new skills and be able to work to the high standards expected in the aviation industry. If you are looking to join a successful aviation business, this could be for you. This position offers 25 days annual holiday and the membership of the company pension scheme. Please send your CV with current salary details to Mr Paul Ruprecht, Operations Manager, AEM Limited,Wilton Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 5HE or e-mail
TO APPLY:
Paul Ruprecht,
AEM Ltd
Email paul.ruprecht@ametek.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
9th May 2008

GRADUATE, TRAINEES

JOB TITLE:
Development and Training Assistant
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
£15,000 - £19,000 depending on experience
COMPANY:
Screen South
For job specification, application form or further information please see our website or contact Vanessa Cook. Please send completed application form, current CV and letter of motivation stating where your saw the position advertised to vanessa.cook@screensouth.org or Screen South, The Wedge, 75 - 81 Tontine Street, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1JR T: 01303 259 777 F: 01303 259 786 www.screensouth.org
TO APPLY:
vanessa cook
Screen South
Tel: 01303 259 777
Email vanessa.cook@screensouth.org

JOB TITLE:
Graduate Teacher Programme
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Northfleet Technology College
In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, we wish to offer the following Trainee placements on the Graduate Teacher Programme. Science Mathematics Music This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast. NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees. We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk.
TO APPLY:
Mrs Gill Taylor
Northfleet Technology College
Tel: 01474 533802 Ext 201
Email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
6 May 2008

HEALTH & SAFETY, SECURITY, DEFENSE

JOB TITLE:
Health, Safety and Environment Trainee
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
Starting Salary £17,559 - £18,438 p.a.
COMPANY:
Swale Borough Council
37 hours per week A unique opportunity has arisen within Swale Borough Council for a suitable candidate wishing to become a Health & Safety Professional. Working within the existing Building Maintenance team and assisting the Safety Officer, this is a hands-on role covering all aspects of Health, Safety, Fire and Environmental issues within the Council. No previous Safety knowledge or experience is required as the successful candidate will be given full training and be expected to undertake professional examinations. The role will involve supporting the Safety Officer and others, carrying out site inspections and helping maintain documentation. This is an excellent opportunity for someone looking to establish a career within health and safety and the desire to progress to a higher grade (Career Graded) within the organisation following qualification training and experience. Candidates must hold a minimum of 3 A levels, but preferably a degree or equivalent and previous experience of a work environment such as office or construction administration would be an advantage. Although no prior health and

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safety knowledge is needed, excellent organisational skills coupled with strong IT skills will be required together with the desire to continue with education. We welcome applications for flexible working arrangements. In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, Local Government final salary pension scheme and flexi time working. For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Website: http://jobs.swale.gov.uk. Interviews: 15/16 May 2008.
TO APPLY:
Swale Borough Council
Tel: 01795 417414
Email hr@swale.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
6 May 2008

LEISURE, TOURISM, TRAVEL

JOB TITLE:
Circuit Marshals
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
Buckmore Park Karting Ltd
Hours to suit including daytim, evenings and weekends. Must be aged 17 years or above. For more details, contact Anne Eldridge at Buckmore Park Kart Circuit
TO APPLY:
Anne Eldridge
Buckmore Park Karting Ltd
Tel: 01634 201562 x 201
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

MANAGEMENT, SENIOR POSITIONS

JOB TITLE:
Account Management Executive - Print Management
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
City Digital Ltd
We require support staff to work within our busy Account Management team. Experience within the print industry would be a benefit but not essential. Candidates should be IT literate, well organised, good communicators with a proven track record of providing excellent Customer Service.
TO APPLY:
Sue Hickin
City Digital Ltd
Tel: 0845 262 5555
Email shickin@citydigital.net

JOB TITLE:
Account Manager - Print Management, imag
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
City Digital Ltd
We require a polished print professional with excellent knowledge of litho, digital and DM print processes and organisational skills to work within a pressurised environment. Good communication skills are essential, as the role will require liaison with both client and supplier to ensure the smooth running of projects. Experience within a print management environment preferable.
TO APPLY:
Sue Hickin
City Digital Ltd
Tel: 0845 262 5555.
Email shickin@citydigital.net

JOB TITLE:
Area Team Leader - Primary Mental Health Project Manager
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
Starting salary £26,159 with progression through contribution related pay to £29,920 per annum
COMPANY:
Kent County Council
Do you have experience of and commitment to working with young people, and could you support and offer guidance to other colleagues? We are seeking to appoint a Team Leader who is bright, full of ideas and enjoys using their initiative, to join our dedicated and highly effective staff team. The primary function of this role is to establish and support Kent Safe Schools Primary Mental Health Project, a new initiative targeted at young people in Swale schools and working closely with teachers, Health professional and CAMHS workers. You would work with multi-agencies, schools, parents, children and young people with the intention of making schools a safer environment for young people, and to facilitate the referral of young people through schools into mental health support programmes. In addition to the Project Manager duties, the Area Team Leader will be expected to work closely with all agencies, schools and communities to identify networking opportunities and establish firm partnerships. You will take a shared responsibility for supporting other staff delivering in the same area, with a particular focus on the co-ordination of services, induction and training. We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues who possess experience of working with young people, ideally in primary phase. To apply for any of these posts, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs. Alternatively, please email or call us. Please quote reference number.
TO APPLY:
Kent County Council
Tel: 0845 8247 904
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
8th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Assistant Manager
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Cumbria House Residential Home
Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone. We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above. Subject to satisfactory CRB Check
TO APPLY:
Julia Carter (Home Manager)
Cumbria House Residential Home
Tel: 01303 254019
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Contracts Manager
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
GSE Group
GSE are the South East's leading Design & Build Company and with a healthy long term order book now require a Motivated and enthusiastic Contracts Manager with a proven track record. The successful candidate will be responsible for running 3/4 prestigious contracts with values to £6m, manage major projects and develop further business opportunities, mainly in the Kent area.
TO APPLY:
Mrs. S. Barlow,
GSE Group
Email sue.barlow@gse-group.com

JOB TITLE:
Deputy Manager
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Starting Salary £10,475 p.a. for 20 hrs /week (£10.07/hour)
COMPANY:
Volunteer Centre Gravesham
Volunteer Centre Gravesham require a deputy to assist the Centre Manager to raise awareness and understanding of the role of the Centre; to deliver the core functions of a VC, attracting & placing volunteers and working hand-in-hand with other organisations to create new exciting volunteer opportunities. Do you have? Enthusiasm & commitment to stimulate & encourage local interest in volunteering & community activity Creativity in developing new ways of raising the profile of volunteering in Gravesham Excellent organisation & communication skills; initiative & an effective team player, with a good working knowledge of IT For further information or to obtain application pack telephone 01474 322729 or email below.
TO APPLY:
Jenny Lane
Volunteer Centre Gravesham
Tel: 01474 322729
Email
jenny@volunteercentregravesham.org

JOB TITLE:
Deputy Manager
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Country Care
A Residential Home for adults with learning disabilities require a Deputy Manager. Please contact Mrs Brooks below.
TO APPLY:
Mrs Brooks
Country Care
Tel: 01795 886220
Email ellenscourt@btconnect.com

JOB TITLE:
Lead Copywriter
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
Up to £21,000 (DOE)
COMPANY:
Holiday Extras
Day to day management of a team of SEO copywriters, their workloads, motivation and training needs. Ensuring the team understands and implements our SEO strategy, and will assume a lead role in projects as required. Key Responsibilities: SEO content creation & Implementing SEO strategy, Ownership of projects and product development, Day-to-day management of team activity, Working with managing editor to compile KPIs and targets for the team, To provide and interpret site statistics, analytics and management information Interested? Then please send your CV and covering letter to Holiday Extras, Newingreen, Hythe, Kent CT21 4JF or to recruitment@holidayextras.com
TO APPLY:
Emma Finch
Holiday Extras
Tel: 0871 360 2170
Email recruitment@holidayextras.com
CLOSING DATE
2nd May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Senior Sales / Business Development
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
City Digital Ltd
We are seeking a highly motivated person with a strong sales orientation, an exceptional track record of development/delivery of business within the print management/DM sector and importantly the drive and determination to help grow our business.
TO APPLY:
Sue Hickin
City Digital Ltd
Tel: 0845 262 5555
Email shickin@citydigital.net

MARKETING, ADVERTISING

JOB TITLE:
Admissions Officer
LOCATION:
Tonbridge
SALARY:
£18,059 - £21,237 pa.
COMPANY:
West Kent College
We are one of the most successful colleges in the south east region providing further and higher education. We are committed to improving the diversity of our staff by offering a wide range of opportunities including apprenticeships, flexible working and full and part-time positions. Why not look at what we can offer you. Maternity Cover (min. six months) This varied role will see you updating course information for our website, working closely with our marketing team and handling a variety of public enquiries. It will also provide you with the opportunity to help us produce reports and analyse the success of our advertising and promotional material. As well as excellent customer care skills, you must be confident working with computers and answering the telephone. A very organised approach and the ability to work effectively under pressure will also be essential. All posts will require a Criminal Record Bureau Enhanced Disclosure Certificate. The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working hours; full support including an on-site nursery; final salary pension; private health plan; Health & Fitness suite and more.
TO APPLY:
HR department
West Kent College
Tel: 01732 376511
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk
CLOSING DATE
1 May 2008

MOTOR TRADE, DRIVER

JOB TITLE:
ADI's Urgently Required
LOCATION:
Broadstairs
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
Revolution Driving School
Fun, Lively, Qualified Driving Instructors Required. Competitive Franchise Fee Call Kevin for More Details 07787 123452 www.revolutiondrivingschool.co.uk
TO APPLY:
Kevin
Revolution Driving School
Tel: 07787 123452
Email
kevin@revolutiondrivingschool.co.uk

NOT FOR PROFIT, CHARITIES

JOB TITLE:
Support Officer
LOCATION:
Sheerness
SALARY:
£18,225 + essential care user & mileage allowances and pension contribution
COMPANY:
Swale Carers Centre
Swale Carers Centre, based in Sheerness, seeks an innovative, energetic, reliable, person to join our highly successful and well respected young carers support service team, to promote, support and empower young carers aged 5-18 residing in the Swale area, through provision of information, advice, advocacy, respite activities and workshops, including after school/early evening support groups (term-time) plus occasional weekend working, including residential and camping events during school holidays. To apply please contact Sandie Hornby.
TO APPLY:
Sandie Hornby
Swale Carers Centre
Tel: 01795 583440
Email sandie.swalecarers@tiscali.co.uk

NURSING, MEDICINE, CARE WORK

JOB TITLE:
Admin Support Worker Care
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
£14,500-£15,500
COMPANY:
Demelza House
Due to expanding and developing care services we require an experienced administrator 37 hours per week Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. The post holder will:- • Have some interface with children, young people, families and other healthcare professionals • Collate and prepare data in various formats, using all Microsoft packages • Undertake a range of general office duties. You must :- • Be highly IT literate and present data in a compelling format • Be flexible, adaptable, self motivated and able to work under pressure to deadlines. • Be highly organised and able to re-prioritise a changing workload. • Be comfortable working in a highly sensitive and confidential setting. generous annual leave, pension and excellent working environment, based at our hospice in Sittingbourne.
TO APPLY:
Ann Fagg or Wendy Faulknall
Demelza House
Tel: 01795 845295 or 01795 845200.
Email info@demelza.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Carers
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Country Care
A Residential Home for adults with learning disabilities require Part-time Carers. Please contact Mrs Brooks below.
TO APPLY:
Mrs Brooks
Country Care
Tel: 01795 886220
Email ellenscourt@btconnect.com

JOB TITLE:
Community Carers
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
Meridian Care
Full paid training given. Competitive rates of pay with enhancement for NVQ qualified. Mileage allowance and full support given for both new and experienced carers. Own transport essential. For Canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call
TO APPLY:
Meridian Care
Tel: 01227 712300
Email MeridianCbury@aol.com

JOB TITLE:
Community Carers and Domestic Carers
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Brampton Care Home
Due to an expanding service, we require Community Carers & Domestic Carers to join our team in Folkestone/Hythe & Surrounding Villages Experience preferred but not essential As all training is provided • Must have own transport • Be flexible with working hours. • Work alternate weekends All posts are subject to enhanced disclosure
TO APPLY:
Alison George
Brampton Care Home
Tel: 01303 272348
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Deputy Manager
LOCATION:
Isle of Sheppey
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Little Oyster Residential Home
New appointment for a 60 bed home for adults with physical/learning disabilities. The successful applicant should be dynamic, multi-skilled and able to use own initiative. Must have NVQ 3 in care or above with minimum 2 years relevant supervisory/management experience. Required to work alternate weekends and on call via rota.
TO APPLY:
Chris Kite
Little Oyster Residential Home
Email chriskite@blueyonder.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Experienced Dental Nurse and Cleaner
LOCATION:
Rainham
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Omni Park Dental Centre
To apply please contact Dr Julius Babayemi on 07958 540731 or email your CV to omniparkdental@yahoo.com
TO APPLY:
Dr Julius Babayemi
Omni Park Dental Centre
Tel: 07958 540731
Email omniparkdental@yahoo.com

JOB TITLE:
Home From
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
Expenses Paid
COMPANY:
British Red Cross
Mrs. Brooks is 84 years old and soon going home from hospital. She feels anxious about how she will manage her shopping and would like someone to visit to give her general support and practical help. Could you spare a few hours a week to help Mrs Brooks and others like her to regain her confidence and provide some social contact?
TO APPLY:
Robyn Dye
British Red Cross
Tel: 01227 763900
(Answerphone out of hours)
Email rdye@redcross.org.uk

JOB TITLE:
In-House Bather
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Age Concern
Required to assist with bathing clients within the Centre. Previous experience and NVQ Level 2 in Care an advantage although training will be provided. Hours of work 10 per week. Please phone for an application form and job description. Age Concern Gravesend is an Equal Opportunities Employer
TO APPLY:
Age Concern
Tel: 01474 564898 or 01474 567131
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Personal Assistant/Carer
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
£7 per hour
COMPANY:
Mrs Nurinder Bhohi
Required for young disabled man approx 10hrs per week each
TO APPLY:
Mrs Nurinder Bhohi
Tel: 01634 331667
Email nurinderb@googlemail.com

JOB TITLE:
Support Workers and Registered Nurses (RMN,RMNH,RNLD'S)
LOCATION:
Kent
SALARY:
Pay Rates from £8.66ph for Support Workers & £17ph for Nurses (including holiday pay).
COMPANY:
DNA Forensic Nursing Agency Ltd
to work within Mental Health and Secure Settings locally and nationally. Experience preferred, but not essential as full training given. Immediate Start following checks & training.
TO APPLY:
DNA Forensic Nursing Agency Ltd
DNA Forensic Nursing Agency Ltd
Tel: 08458454567
Email info@dnanursing.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Support Workers Required
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Hothfield Manor Centre
The Huntercombe Group Hothfield Manor Centre For acquired brain injury, Part of the FSHC Group Shifts Required Days, nights.
TO APPLY:
Lynn
Hothfield Manor Centre
Tel: 01233 643272
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

PUBLIC RELATIONS, MEDIA, JOURNALISM

JOB TITLE:
Media Officer
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Circa £19,000 – £21,000
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Transformation and Finance Communications Our Communications Team is looking for an enthusiastic Media Officer to complete a busy team which punches above its weight. Applicants must have good writing skills and the ability to communicate across the full range of media. The ability to work to tight deadlines is essential and knowledge of desktop publishing and imaging packages would be an advantage. To succeed in this role you will have experience of PR, journalism, publishing, designing and/or marketing, preferably having experience of working with/for local authorities
TO APPLY:
Customer Services,
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email
customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
2 May 2008

PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES

JOB TITLE:
Catering Supervisor
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Salary: Circa £17,000 – £19,000m
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
An enthusiastic, self motivated supervisor is required to head up a busy catering team at the Woodville Halls Theatre. You will oversee the day to day running of a well appointed bar and Spotlites cafe, as well as catering for a variety of functions and corporate events at the Civic Centre. You will hold a current Basic Health and Hygiene Certificate and preferably have experience in a supervisory role. A recognised qualification would be an advantage. For an application form and job description please contact:.Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.H
TO APPLY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email
customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk, imag
CLOSING DATE
9 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Civil Enforcement Officer
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
£17,043 - £20,649 (pay award pending)
COMPANY:
Shepway District Council
Civil Enforcement Officers have the responsibility to enforce parking regulations on the highway as well as council car parks across the whole of the Shepway district. We are looking to recruit a Civil Enforcement Officer to join this vibrant team in this challenging role. Successful applicants will have excellent communication skills both orally and written; be able to demonstrate team working, work under pressure and handle conflict calmly; have a positive and friendly approach and a reasonable level of fitness. Previous experience is not as important as a positive, motivated person who is quick and willing to learn. Full training will be provided and the team generally aims to offer a supportive working environment. You will be required to work on a shift system between the hours of 8am – 8pm any 5 out of 7 days including bank holidays. A full driving license will be necessary.
TO APPLY:
Frederick Miller
Shepway District Council
Tel: 01303 853207
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Civil Enforcement Officers x 5
LOCATION:
Tunbridge Wells
SALARY:
£15,470 - £17,781pa (plus an additional market supplement of £3,000pa)
COMPANY:
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
(37 hours / will be required to work Saturdays and Sundays on rota basis) Are you looking for responsible and rewarding employment carrying out a service to the community? Can you help Tunbridge Wells Borough Council resolve its traffi c/parking problems? The Parking Section is looking to recruit a number of Civil Enforcement Offi cers to join its existing team. You will be responsible for the enforcement of parking regulations across the borough, both on-street and in the Council's off-street car parks, and full training to a nationally recognised qualifi cation will be given. Employment in the post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau. If you: • have experience of a front-line, public-oriented service, or of local authority parking operations • have the ability to respond well to challenging situations • are confi dent and focused on customer service • have good communication and interpersonal skills • have a full driving licence. then this could be the opportunity for you. For an application form and information pack please visit our website www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk or contact the HR Department. post: Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS or 01892 526121 ext 3380. Please state which job/position you are applying for.
TO APPLY:
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Tel: 01892 554149 (24 hour answerphone)
Email personnel@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
9th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Commissionaire
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Salary: Circa £6,500–£8,500 pa
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
2 part time posts – 18.5 hours per week on a rota basis The postholders will be responsible for providing an out of hours meet & greet and security service to the Civic Centre and Woodville Halls, on a shift basis which will involve an element of a lone-working. The ideal candidate will be a good team player with experience of working in a customer facing role. Good communication and IT skills are essential as well as the ability to work under pressure. Knowledge of health and safety and/or experience working in a cleaning and/or caretaking role would be an advantage. For an application form and job description please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.
TO APPLY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email
customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk, imag
CLOSING DATE
9 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Part time Administrative Assistant
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Salary: Circa £6,500–£8,000 pa
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Part time post – 20 hours per week, Mon – Fri, 1 –5pm We are looking for a part time Administrative Assistant to undertake a variety of administration tasks and assist with internal and external enquires within the customer services department. Working as part of a dedicated, multiskilled team you will possess good administrative and customer service skills, be competent in Word, Excel and Outlook Express and have a flexible approach to the role. Applicants should be available to provide additional cover during peak periods and sickness when necessary. For an application form and job description please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.ord,
TO APPLY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email
customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk, imag
CLOSING DATE
9 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Part time Customer Service Officers
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Salary: Circa £15,500 – £18,500 pro rata
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Post A: Mon – Fri, 8.45am – 1.00pm Post B: Mon – Fri, 12:30pm – 4.00pm As part of a dedicated, multi skilled team these posts are based in our state of the art Customer Contact Centre and involve dealing with customers via telephone, face to face and written communication. Successful applicants will have excellent customer service and communication skills, a professional approach together with a working knowledge of IT and the ability to adapt and learn IT systems quickly.Experience of working within a customer facing role and working to deadlines often under pressure is also essential. Applicants will be required to attend a short skills assessment as part of the selection process.
TO APPLY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email
customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
9th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Partnership with Parents Development Officer
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
Starting salary £26,159 with progression through contribution related pay to £29,920 per annum
COMPANY:
Kent County Council
This is an exciting opportunity for you to join our team at a time of significant development. We are an arm's length service providing an impartial advice and support service to parents and carers of children with additional needs. We also work closely with schools, services and agencies to promote parental involvement. We believe that good communication between all those involved in a child's education is key to good relationships which will help children achieve. Experience of delivering training and knowledge of AEN and SEN processes is essential. Supervision will be provided for both posts.
TO APPLY:
Kent County Council
Tel: 08457 8247 904
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
8th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Partnership with Parents Development Officer - Parent Forums
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
Starting salary £26,159, with progression through contribution related pay to £29,920 per annum (pro rata for temporary post)
COMPANY:
Kent County Council
We are looking to recruit people with exceptional communication skills who are committed to promoting good communication between parents, schools and agencies and increasing parental involvement. You will need excellent oral and written communication skills, experience of developing partnerships with a wide range of people and experience of working with parents. Temporary/Secondment opportunity until April 2009. This is an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills. We have been contracted by the Extended Schools Service to set up Parent Forums in each LCSP/Cluster. Do you have the skills to help us? Experience of managing projects is essential. To apply for any of these posts, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs.

Highways - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SOUTHENAY LANE, EAST BRABOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Southenay Lane, East Brabourne from junction of Fiddling Lane and Priory Lane on or after the 12th May 2008 for an estimated period of up to 8 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via Broad Street, Cock Ash, Moorstock Lane, Ashford Road, Stone Hill and Southenay Lane and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lay a new water main. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nicola Stone of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873290.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(KINGSDOWN PARK, WHITSTABLE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway reconstruction and utility service connections works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Kingsdown Park, Whitstable from the northern boundary of property 87 to the junction with Tankerton Circus on or after 13 May 2008 for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via East bound via Northwood Road and St Mary's Road; Westbound via Tankerton Road, Castle Road and Northwood Road.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
DARTFORD RESURFACING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 (2) THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as noted in Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 28th April 2008, for various periods as noted in the attached schedule, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described will be as described in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the resurfacing of the carriageway.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

SCHEDULE 1

Road Name	Location	Dates	Diversion
Ingress Gardens, Swanscombe	Full Length	26th and 28th April 7am – 4pm	No Suitable Diversion
Wilmington Court Road, Wilmington	Full Length	28th and 29th April 7am – 5pm	Common Lane, Oakfield Drive, Leyton Cross Road, Tredegar Road
Attlee Drive, Dartford	Full Length	28th April - 2nd May 7am – 5pm	Littlebrook Manor Way, St Vincents Avenue
Lower Hythe Street, Dartford	Full Length	6th May 7am – 6pm	No Suitable Diversion
London Road, Swanscombe	Craylands Lane to High Street	21st - 23rd and 27th May 7pm – 5am	Stonebridge Road, High Street, The Hill, Springhead Road, Hall Road, A2 Watling Street, Bean Lane
Lowfield Street, Dartford	Heath Street to Princes Road	29th – 30th May and 2nd - 3rd June	Princes Road, Heath Lane, Highfield Road,
Leyton Cross Road, Dartford	Bracton Lane to Oakfield Lane	4th – 6th June 7am – 5pm	Oakfield Lane, Old Bexley Lane, Baldwyns Park, Tile Kiln Lane, Summerhouse Drive
Watling Street, Dartford	Princes Road to the Brent	9th - 13th June, and 16th – 20th June 7am - 5pm	The Brent, Park Road, Princes Road

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ELLENS ROAD, DEAL) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because BT renewal of aerial cable works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Ellens Road, Deal from its junction with Mongeham Road to its junction with Cross Road on or after 28 April 2008 for an estimated period of 3 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Mongeham Road, St Richards Road and Cross Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BRANCH STREET DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because crane lifting works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Branch Street Dover from its junction with Bridge Street to its junction from Peter Street on or after 18 May 2008 for an estimated period of 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bridge Street, High Street and Peter Street.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
A227 WROTHAM ROAD, GRAVESEND, ST THOMAS' AVENUE, GRAVESEND AND KENT ROAD, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are being carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on A227 Wrotham Road prohibiting left turns into Old Road West; on St Thomas' Avenue prohibiting vehicular traffic travelling from Trosley Avenue towards A227 Wrotham Road and on Kent Road prohibiting vehicular traffic travelling from Darnley Road to Wrotham Road.

The Order will become effective on 12th May 2008, for a total period of up to sixteen weeks or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via: Wrotham Road: New House Lane, Dashwood Road and Old Road West. St Thomas' Avenue: St Thomas' Avenue, Woodfield Avenue and Old Road West Kent Road: Darnley Road, Old Road West, A227 Wrotham Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Gas Main replacement works to be undertaken in the carriageway.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HALL ROAD, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are being carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Hall Road, Gravesend between 93 and 125.

The Order will become effective on 12th May 2008, for a period of up to one evening or a weekend in the following four weeks or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Old Road West, Dover Road East, Thames Way, Springhead Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate High Friction Surfacing to be applied to the carriageway.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BRISHING ROAD, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Brishing Road at a point outside Mount Pleasant Farm to the junction of Brishing Lane on or after Monday 12th May 2008 for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Brishing Lane, Heath Road and for northbound traffic vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a new electricity supply, should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Emma Orsborne of Amber Langis Limited on 01474 573831.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN MAIDSTONE) (ROAD CLOSURE)TEMPORARY ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that to allow highway maintenance works to take place the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto on or after 21st May 2008 for an estimated period of one week or for a period not exceeding 18 months.

The alternative for each route described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto is described in column 2 of that Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

Berwyn Grove, Maidstone for its entire length.	Norrington Road, Pear Tree Lane and Paynes lane.
Ivens Way, Harrietsham for its entire length.	None available.
Quested Way, Harrietsham for its entire length.	West Street and Hook Lane.
Broadoak Avenue, Maidstone for its entire length.	None available.
Hyde Road, Maidstone from Grace Avenue to Buckland Lane.	Grace Avenue and London Road.
Buckland Lane, Maidstone from Hyde Road to London Road.	Grace Avenue and London Road.
Lismore Close, Maidstone for its entire length.	None available.
Sutton Road, Maidstone (service road) from its junction with Sutton Road to ITS junction with Northumberland Road.	Sutton Road and Northumberland Road
Shirley Way, Bearsted for its entire length.	Spot Lane, Ashford Road and Cavendish Way.
York Road, Maidstone for its entire length.	None available.
Vale Road, Loose for its entire length.	None available.
Valley Drive Loose for its entire length.	None available.
Penfold Way, Loose for its entire length.	None available.
Downs Close, Maidstone for its entire length.	None available.
Downs View Road, Maidstone for its entire length.	None available.
Croft Gardens, Lenham for its entire length.	None available.
Cedar Drive, Barming for its entire length.	None available.
Mill Lane, Hollingbourne for its entire length.	None available.
Skye Close, Maidstone for its entire length.	None available.
Stuart Close, Maidstone for its entire length.	None available.
Prospect Place, Maidstone for its entire length.	None available.
Bower Lane, Maidstone from Florence Road to its southern end.	Tonbridge Road, St Michaels Road and Upper Fant Road.
Lower Fant Road from its junction with Bower Lane to its junction with Roseholme.	None available.

Advance road works information boards will be placed prior to works commencing on site, giving details as to when works are scheduled to commence and expected duration.

Order will only be effective when the appropriate signs are displayed.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN MAIDSTONE) (ROAD CLOSURE)TEMPORARY ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that to allow highway maintenance works to take place the Kent County Council has made Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto on or after 1st May 2008 for an estimated period of one week or for a period not exceeding 18 months.

The alternative for each route described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto is described in column 2 of that Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

B2162 Benover Road/ Yalding Road, Collier Street/Yalding from its junction with Claygate Road to its junction with Lyngs Road.	Yalding Road, Green Lane, Underlyn Lane, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst Road, Linton Hill, Heath Road, Ewell Lane, Smiths Hill, Yalding Hill, High Street.
B2163 Penfold Hill, Leeds from its junction Ashford Road A20 to its junction Burberry Lane.	Lower Street, Upper Street, Leeds Road, A274 Sutton Road, Willington Street and A20 Ashford Road.
Hook Lane, Harrietsham from its junction Ashford Road to its junction with West Street.	Ashford Road and West Street.
Church Road, Harrietsham from its junction East Street to its junction with Ashford Road.	East Street and Ashford Road.
School Lane, Platts Heath for its entire length.	Headcorn Road and Lenham Road.
Busbridge Road, Tovil/Loose from its junction with New Cut to its junction with Well Road.	New Cut, Stockett Lane, Forstal Lane and Well Road.
Chain Gate Road (Park Road), Platts Heath from its junction with Headcorn Road to its junction with Lenham Road.	Headcorn Road and Lenham Road.
Forge Lane, Leeds from its junction with Old Mill Road to its junction with Caring Lane.	Old Mill Lane, Upper Street, Horseshoes Lane and Back Street.

Advance road works information boards will be placed prior to works commencing on site, giving details as to when works are scheduled to commence and expected duration. Each closure is not expected to last more than one day

Order will only be effective when the appropriate signs are displayed.

For further information, please contact Geoff Harrison-Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, NEW ROMNEY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because sewer connection works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, New Romney as descibed in column 1 of schedule to this order on or after 12 May 2008 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for each road described in column 1 of the schedule to this order is desribed in column 3 of that schedule.

Specified Road	length of road affected	alternative routes	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Church Lane, New Romney.	From its junction with Church Road to its junction Tookey Road.	Church Lane, Wiles Avenue, Marsh Crescent, The Churchlands and Church Road.	12 May 2008 for up to 5 days.
Phase 2			
Church Road, New Romney.	From its junction with Church Lane to its junction Church Close.	Church Lane, Wiles Avenue, Marsh Crescent, The Churchlands.	19 May 2008 for up to 5 days.

This Order will come into force on Monday 12 May 2008, and will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months or until the works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

Highways - Borough of Swale

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949
CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD BRIDGE AT MILTON CREEK, SITTINGBOURNE, NORTH KENT.

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council has applied to the Marine & Fisheries Agency under Section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by Section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, for consent to construct a road bridge at Milton Creek, Sittingbourne, North Kent.

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at: Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT

Representations or objections on navigational grounds in respect of the application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to Tim Hanham, Marine Fisheries Agency, 6A, 3/8 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH or email to tim.hanham@mfa.gsi.gov.uk, within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference 33993/080327 DC8359.

The Marine & Fisheries Agency will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation he receives.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SOUTH STREET, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on South Street, Boughton Under Blean, outside New House & Walnut Tree Cottages on or after Tuesday 29th April 2008 for a period of up to 7 days or until such works are completed

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via Overland, Selling Road & Crouch Lane and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide a new electricity supply. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Mr. John Rummery on 07920150893.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(EBBSFLEET LANE, RICHBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because water pipe works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Ebbsfleet Lane, Richborough from its junction with A256 Ramsgate Road to its junction with Grinsell Hill on or after 12 May 2008 for an estimated period of 2 Weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A256, A299 and Thorn Hill.

For further information, please contact Geoff Harrison-Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

JobsforKent.co.uk

Alternatively, please email or call us. Please quote appropriate reference number.
TO APPLY:
Kent County Council
Tel: 0845 8247 904
Email email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

JOB TITLE:
Rent Arrears Officer
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
£17,000 – £21,000
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
In this varied role you will be responsible for carrying out arrears recovery action which will include attending court. A strong team player, you will have the ability to work effectively to meet targets for rent collection and arrears. You will have experience of debt recovery, good communication and IT skills and the ability to prepare reports and present cases. A full driving licence and use of a vehicle is essential as you will be required to carry out home visits throughout the borough.
TO APPLY:
Customer Services,
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email services@gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Rent Officer
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
£15,500 – £18,500
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
As a Rent Officer you will work as part of a team providing a comprehensive rent collection service to the tenants of Gravesham Borough Council. With sound experience in a front line position in a customer focused environment, you will be IT literate with the ability to prioritise a busy workload. The role also demands strong organisational skills, an understanding of the issues associated with rent recovery and housing legislation and the ability to make complex calculations and interpret rent accounts. A full driving licence and use of a vehicle is essential. You will be required to work unsocial hours from time to time.
TO APPLY:
Customer Services
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email
customer.servies@gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Street Sweeper/Driver
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
£15,027 p.a. to £18,316 pa rising to £19,442 pa with exceptional performance (pay award pending)
COMPANY:
Sevenoaks District Council
Sevenoaks District Council is classed as an 'Excellent Council' according to the Audit Commission. The Council is also a Times newspaper 'Best Council to work for' awards winner, the Local Government Chronicle 'Finance award' winner and has 'Investors in People' status Community and Planning Services Department Sevenoaks Direct Services You will be a part of the team maintaining the cleanliness of the streets within the Sevenoaks District Council area, and be based at Dunbrik Depot, Sundridge. You will need to be physically capable of carrying out the duties of the post, presentable in appearance and prepared to work as part of a team. You will be working a 37 hour week and you must hold a driving licence that allows you to drive a vehicle up to 7.5 tonnes. Our staff benefits package includes, a final salary contributory pension scheme, flexible annual leave and working arrangements, free membership of Sencio's Leisure Centres in the District, a childcare vouchers scheme and excellent training and development opportunities.
TO APPLY:
the Human Resources Team
Sevenoaks District Council
Tel: 01732 227102 (24 hours)
Email recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
6th May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Supervisor –Gas/EnergyR
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Salary: Circa £21,500 to £25,500
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Gravesham Borough Council is currently looking to recruit a Gas/Energy Surveyor to manage the cyclical gas servicing for 6000 properties currently carried under a partnership agreement. You will be required to supervise 300 new gas central heating installations each year, as well as identifying energy saving initiatives and implementing these initiatives to improve the SAP rating of the Council's housing stock. You will possess Corgi/ACS or compatible gas safety certification or a pertinent higher qualification and have experience of managing or assisting with the management of gas service, safety and installation work relating to housing stock. The position is subject to successful CRB clearance. A clean current driving license is essential. For an application form and job description please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.ord,
TO APPLY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email
customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
16 May 2008

JOB TITLE:
Surveyor (Contracts)
LOCATION:
Gravesend
SALARY:
Salary: Circa £24,000 to £29,500
COMPANY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Gravesham Borough Council is currently looking to recruit an experienced Housing Surveyor to join a small team at Brookvale Depot in Northfleet. Gravesham has a housing stock of 6000 with 2 strategic partners delivering services to complete the Capital and Revenue expenditure programmes. You will be involved in the organisation and monitoring of building related projects and schemes and will assist in the delivery of the Capital works, Decent Homes and revenue programmes. You will hold an HNC (Building) or equivalent with extensive experience in social housing maintenance. The position is subject to successful CRB clearance. A clean current driving license is essential.
TO APPLY:
Gravesham Borough Council
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email
customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
16 May 2008

RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES

JOB TITLE:
Car Sales Executive
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
Sherlodge Garage
We are seeking to recruit an additional Sales Executive to our existing team to further strengthen our commitment to delivering a first class service to our customers. The successful candidate must be self-motivated and results oriented, possess the drive and determination to succeed in a competitive environment with a 'no compromise' approach to customer satisfaction. In return we offer you the challenges, commitment to excellence and rewards you inevitably seek. To apply for this position, please forward you're current CV with a covering letter to: Andrew Clarke, Sherlodge Garage 26 Hoath Lane, Wigmore, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0SW. Telephone: 01634 377444 or Email
TO APPLY:
Andrew Clarke,
Sherlodge Garage
Tel: 01634 377444
Email
andrew.clarke@sherlodgegarageskoda.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Experienced Sales Person
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
G C Stevens & Son
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TO APPLY:
G C Stevens & Son
Email info@gcstevens.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Full Time/Part-Time Sales Assistants
LOCATION:
Chatham
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Buckmore Park Karting Ltd
Must be customer focused and have excellent telephone and face-to-face manner. Experience of taking reservations/bookings essential. Must be computer literate. Full training on our new booking system will be given. Flexitime and part-time hours by agreement to cover office opening hours. Please send CV to Joanne McInnes, Buckmore Park Karting Ltd, Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 9QG or email.
TO APPLY:
Joanne McInnes
Buckmore Park Karting Ltd
Email joanne@buckmore.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Seasonal Relief Workers / Enthusiastic Person
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
tba
COMPANY:
Victoriana Nursery Gardens
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Victoriana Nursery Gardens
Tel: 01233 740529
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Shop Assistant
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
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COMPANY:
Rochester & Cobham Park Golf Club
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Mr David Smith,
Rochester & Cobham Park Golf Club
Tel: 01474 823411
Email rcpgc@talk21.com

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LOCATION:
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SALARY:
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COMPANY:
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TO APPLY:
Saga
Tel: 01303 774888
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
21 May 2008

The Insolvency Rules 1986
KANTH INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 04395420
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Simon Paterson of Moore Stephens LLP, 1st Floor, Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU, was appointed liquidator of the Company on 22 April 2008.
Date: 22 April 2008
Simon Paterson, Liquidator

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-
Name of Premises: The Pavilion on the Sands, Harbour Street, Broadstairs
Applicant: Mr Francis George Thorley
The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.
Martin Alford, Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

In the Borough of Tonbridge & Malling
TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
(OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES)
(AMENDMENT No 1) ORDER 2008

Notice is hereby given that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 32 and 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, having obtained the consent of Kent County Council in accordance with Section 39(3) of the Act, and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 of the Act.
The effect of the Order will be to amend the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (Off-street Parking Places) Order 2008, The Schedule PART 1, Table of Parking Places, by adding new parking places to the Order with associated tariffs as follows.

Names of Parking Places	Maximum period for which vehicles may wait & Charging period	Scale of charges
Group 12 Haysden Country Park - Main car park	Maximum stay: Opening times of the Country Park	Pay and display charges Up to 4 hour £0.60 Over 4 hours £2.40 Season tickets 12 Months £25.00
Group 13 Haysden Country Park - Haysden Water the two car parks - Audley Rise car park	Maximum stay: Opening times of the Country Park	Season tickets 12 Months £25.00

A copy of the draft Order together with a map, a copy of the Order that will be amended by the proposed Order and a Statement of the Council's Reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, West Malling or Tonbridge Castle from Friday 25th April to noon on 19th May 2008.
Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write, stating reasons and quoting the name of the Order, to the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ, by no later than 12 noon on Monday 19th May 2008
If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact 01732 876160 during normal office hours.
Steve Humphrey
Director of Planning Transport & Leisure

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Mazda aims at the Germans

By **STEVE LOADER**

AUDI, BMW and Mercedes-Benz and their hold on the upmarket estate market are threatened by the all-new Mazda6 'load lugger' now arriving in showrooms.

The previous Mazda6 estate was good looking, but claimed just 12 per cent of overall sales for the range; Mazda expects a bigger percentage and more volume from its even more stylish replacement – preferably at the expense of the German trio.

To that end, the estate body is also the only new Mazda6 style – saloons and hatchbacks also feature in the range – to be offered in both premium equipment grades: Sport and SL.

The former stands apart visually through a 'Sports Appearance Pack' fitted as standard plus 18-inch alloys.

But company car sales are ruled by tax and emissions, so the new Mazda6 uses weight-saving and aerodynamics being deployed across all Mazda models – the new Mazda2 supermini is also light and lithe.

A key part of Mazda's attack on the fleet/company sector with all variants of the '6' also rests squarely on the revised diesel option, which uses seven per cent less fuel than previously and qualifies for lower road tax bands.

It will surely build on the company car success of the original Mazda6, which relaunched the faltering Japanese brand and heralded the successful 'Zoom-Zoom' marketing campaign.

The original car looked good inside and out – whether hatchback, saloon or estate – had some great engines, offered something more than the mainstream, yet still looked good value for money.

There was also the cachet of association with the legendary MX-5 roadster and RX dynasty of rotary-engine coupes – a sporting link underlined latterly by the 'Audi-bashing' Mazda6 MPS all-wheel drive sports saloon.

The new line-up still looks good value from £15,620, with a modest £700 on top for estate equivalents, yet quality has been hiked after feeling pressure from the German marques – Ford showed the way with the latest Mondeo and Mazda has followed suit.

And now that the diesels are here, Mazda can really think about persuading buyers and company car user choosers that it has a different proposition for them.

"Almost 90 per cent of fleet sales for Mazda6 are diesel-powered models, and in its estate form, the new Mazda6 is a great blend of sporty stylishness and immense practicality," said Mark Cameron, marketing director at Dartford-based Mazda UK.

"At 140ps, our diesel Mazda6 out-performs many potential rivals, particularly their entry and mid-level derivatives, and its reduced CO_2 emissions will deliver real financial benefits to company car drivers."

With an eye on the damage also inflicted on traditional company car volumes by 4x4s and people carriers, Cameron suggested: "Simultaneously, more buyers will abandon larger SUV and MPV models, attracted to cars like the new Mazda6 for its people and cargo-carrying abilities and its modest CO_2 emissions levels."

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INSIDE

Peugeot's MPV with cred Page 55

BMW has a green hit Page 58

Commercial vehicles Pages 63-67

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Official government fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and Urban/Extra Urban/Combined and CO2 emissions (g/km) for Vauxhall Range are as follows: **Lowest Corsa 1.0 Eco 3dr** 6.3/3.9/4.8/ CO2 115, **Highest Monaro VXR** 21.9/10.3/14.5/ CO2 384. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE.

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*List Price includes VAT, excludes VED and First Registration Fee. †CV List Price excludes VAT, VED and First Registration Fee. Models shown for illustrative purposes only. Metallic or pearlescent paint finish available at an additional charge. Offers applicable between 1st March and 30th April 2008 and are applicable in the UK (excludlng N.I. and I.O.M). The Colt Car Company Ltd reserves the right to withdraw these offers at any time and without prior notice. These offers are applicable to new retail sales only of the vehicles detailed in this advert, at participating dealers, whilst stocks last. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Prices correct at time of going to print. Range fuel consumption in mpg (ltrs/100km): Urban 16.5 - 52.3 (17.1 - 5.4), Extra Urban 25.1 - 61.4 (11.2 - 4.6), Combined 21.1 - 54.6 (13.4 - 5.2). CO_2 emissions 114 - 319 g/km.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range shown are: Urban 37.2–54.3 (7.6–5.2), Extra Urban 57.6–70.6 (4.9–4.0), Combined 47.9–64.2 (5.9–4.4). The official CO2 emission figures range from 117–139g/km.

Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Finance is subject to status. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) to apply for finance. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, P.O. Box 493, Watford WD17 1FJ. These offers apply to vehicles ordered by April 30th 2008 and are available to private and small business customers only. Cars shown with optional metallic paint an extra £360. Prices shown are cash price - this offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All figures correct at time of going to press.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Vauxhall sharpens up to take revenge

REVENGE vows from mainstream motor marques against premium rivals have gained credibility.

The likes of Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz have lured many new and used buyers away from traditional family motors, but Ford struck back with an all-new and more upmarket Mondeo last year and Citroen has just launched the fabulous C5 using ads targeting the German brands – more on this car next week after a drive courtesy of Wilmoths in Ashford.

The Teutonic trio will be even more worried though by Vauxhall's Insignia replacement for the Vectra in October, judging by the first official pictures.

Unlike Ford, the General Motors brand decided that a change of marketing pitch also merited a change of name and this will surely prove to be a wise move as buyers re-appraise their view of Vauxhall.

For the new Vauxhall is a real head turner and even has a more contemporary execution of the Vauxhall badge.

Available initially as a saloon or hatchback – an estate will surely follow – the Insignia has a coupé-style body and distinctive styling line running from behind the front wheel.

For a sneak preview of the new Insignia on video, see Motors TV at www.carsforkent.co.uk.

Swift offers rapid savings on road tax

HAGGLING, finance deals, servicing packages, customer service – forget those. Dealers will say that the big thing with many buyers on a budget are savings on road tax.

No wonder Suzuki has tweaked its impressive little Swift diesel supermini so that owners can avoid £80 a year on vehicle excise duty – the car now sits in the £35/year B-band – on top of the car's already low running costs.

The revised engine on the 1.3-litre DDiS has a CO2 rating reduced from 124g/km to just 119g/km and will be London Congestion Charge exempt from October, saving around £2,000/year for Kent commuters who drive into the capital.

The 1.3-litre DDiS costs £10,515 – the Swift range starts at £8,260.

Alfa's halo is shining bright

ALFA Romeo has just imported the first of what may be the greatest 'halo model' on the UK market at present.

Just 41 Alfa 8C Competiziones will be on UK roads – at least for now – making it an incredibly rare yet relatively affordable hand-built Italian supercar at £138,500.

It is a shame that we have space for just one picture here of a car that looks dramatic from every angle.

It has a 450bhp 4.7-litre V8 and six-speed Formula 1-style paddle shift gearbox driving through the rear wheels, delivering 0-62mph in 4.2 seconds and a maximum of 181mph.

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Kalos 1.2 SE 5dr

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Matiz 1.0 SE • Low insurance group • Tinted windows
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Lacetti 1.4 SE 5dr • Remote control central locking • Air conditioning (£400 option)

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Motability

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Kalos and Lacetti £350). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £199. Finance by Sandtander PLC. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. The savings are against current MRP and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th June 2008. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km). Matiz 1.0 SE: Urban – 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban – 60.1 (4.7), Combined – 50.4 (5.6), CO_2 emissions 139g/km. Kalos 1.2 SE: Urban – 33.2 (8.5), Extra-urban – 54.3 (5.2), Combined – 44.1 (6.4). CO_2 emissions 153g/km. Lacetti 1.4 SE Hatchback: Urban – 28.8 (9.8), Extra-urban – 49.5 (5.7), Combined – 39.2 (7.2). CO_2 emissions 171g/km.

Go-it-alone style stands out in the MPV sector

by STEVELOADER

VIVE la difference sums up Peugeot's approach to the MPV phenomenon.

While sister brand Citroen has embraced the concept wholeheartedly with its Picasso sub-brand of people carriers, Peugeot evolved its own 'space/sports wagon' or SW approach that does not follow the typical 'one-box' MPV design.

Admittedly, it makes it easy to dismiss models like our 207 SW test car as an estate car on steroids, but there is far more to it than that; in essence, you get everything that you would expect from an MPV except for a higher driving position.

Counterbalancing that though is the Peugeot's car-like driving manners – something that few MPVs can boast.

For a car where space and convenience are a priority, the 207 SW also looks pretty chic with its raked rear pillar and aluminium roof rails, plus the fact that it is based on one of the market's sharpest looking superminis.

And where Peugeot interiors sometimes used to fail to match up to the exterior, the 207 range marked a major change of heart; the 207 SW's cabin is a genuinely pleasant environment, no doubt helped by the huge 'Cielo' full length glass roof that comes as standard.

The plastics are attractive and durable looking, the neat gauges have chrome bezels on the higher grade Sport models and there is a lot of classy alloy detail, although the centre display surround reflects badly and sometimes interferes with the view through the windscreen.

I was rather disappointed that, for a car designed to compete with MPVs, there was not more interior stowage – the glove compartment is small and I could not find any decent space for CDs.

However, the boot is large for this class of car with a low loading threshold, while head and legroom for rear passengers is excellent – the cabin remains airy even with the electrically-powered blind in place.

You also quickly forget any minor grumbles when driving the 207SW: it has a lovely engine and gearbox and the car carries over all the driver enjoyment of the main 207 hatchback range.

Grip is tenacious and the car keeps its poise on corners where a conventional high-set MPV would heel as if under sail.

If you enjoy driving, but have to yield to practicality for work, family, sport or canine reasons then this little Peugeot offers more than a small MPV, without a loss of style or street cred.

DrivingStats

- Peugeot 207 SW 1.6 VTi 120 Sport £13,275.
- Range: £11,340-14,365.
- Garage stats: 4.15m by 1.97m five-door estate/MPV.
- Powertrain: 1,598cc/120bhp four-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels through a five-speed manual gearbox.
- Performance: top speed 125mph and 0-62mph in 9.6 seconds.
- How green?: category-C(£115/year) road tax-150g/km CO2 emissions.
- Official fuel figures: combined 44.8mpg.
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Fuel tank: 50 litres/10.9gallons.
- Insurance group: 7E.
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles.
- Website: www.peugeot.co.uk
- Rivals: Chevrolet Tacuma, Chrysler PT Cruiser, Citroen Xsara Picasso, Hyundai Matrix, Mercedes A-Class, Nissan Note, Renault Grand Modus, Seat Altea, Skoda Fabia Estate, Vauxhall Meriva and VW Golf Plus

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36 Monthly Payments	£139	Customer Deposit	£139	5.9% APR†
On the Road Price	£7,139.46*	Passport Price▼	£7,259.46	
Optional Final Payment To Buy	£3,024^	Total Amount to Pay including Optional Final Payment to Buy	£8,167	
Amount Financed	£7,120.46	Miles Per Annum	6,000	

▼including £120 compulsory roadside assistance. Excess mileage charge 4.34p per mile.

207 M:PLAY 1.4 8V 3 DR
• MP3 PLAYER CONNECTION
• AIR CONDITIONING
• 6 AIRBAGS
• ABS WITH EBFD AND EBA
• ELECTRIC HEATED DOOR MIRRORS

36 Monthly Payments	£179	Customer Deposit	£179	Typical 7.9% APR†
On the Road Price	£9,241.97*	Passport Price▼	£9,361.97	
Optional Final Payment To Buy	£4,348^	Total Amount to Pay including Optional Final Payment to Buy	£10,971	
Amount Financed	£9,182.97	Miles Per Annum	6,000	

▼including £120 compulsory roadside assistance. Excess mileage charge 5.98p per mile.

308 S 1.4 VTi 95 3 DR
• FRONT FOG LIGHTS
• AIR CONDITIONING
• 6 AIRBAGS
• RADIO/CD PLAYER
• ELECTRIC FRONT WINDOWS

36 Monthly Payments	£229	Customer Deposit	£229	5.9% APR†
On the Road Price	£11,604.37*	Passport Price▼	£11,724.37	
Optional Final Payment To Buy	£4,701^	Total Amount to Pay including Optional Final Payment to Buy	£13,174	
Amount Financed	£11,495.37	Miles Per Annum	6,000	

▼including £120 compulsory roadside assistance. Excess mileage charge 6.42p per mile.

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THE OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES IN MPG (L/100KM) AND CO_2 EMISSIONS (G/KM) FOR THE 107 RANGE ARE: URBAN 51.3 (5.5), EXTRA URBAN 68.8 (4.1), COMBINED 61.4 (4.6), CO_2: 109 (G/KM) **FOR THE 207 RANGE ARE:** URBAN 28.5-48.7 (9.9-5.8), EXTRA URBAN 49.5-74.3 (5.7-3.8), COMBINED 39.2-62.7 (7.2-4.5) AND CO_2: 120-171 (G/KM) **AND FOR THE 308 RANGE ARE:** URBAN 24.8-48.7 (11.4-5.8), EXTRA URBAN 47.1-74.3 (6.0-3.8), COMBINED 35.8-62.8 (7.9-4.5), CO_2: 120-188 (G/KM).

†Typical 7.9% APR applies to all 207 models. 5.9% APR applies to selected 107 and 308 models. Offers subject to status. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from the dealer address above and Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill RH1 1QA. ^This payment does not have to be made if you choose to hand your car back to Peugeot. Prices, offers and information correct at time of going to press. Offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered from 01/01/08 until such point as they may be withdrawn by the above dealer at its discretion. Offers subject to availability. *Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty, £55 Government First Registration Fee and apply to 107 Urban 1.0 Litre Hatch 3 dr, 207 m:play 1.4 8v 75 Hatch 3 dr and 308 S 1.4 VTi 95 Hatch 3 dr. Models shown are for illustrative purposes only.

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Copen 1.3 as shown is £11,495 OTR. Metallic paint and leather seats are an extra cost. Prices are correct at time of going to press and include £55 first registration fee and 12 months road fund license. Available only at participating dealers while stocks last.
Official Government Fuel Consumption Figures (mpg (Litres per 100 km) and CO_2 emissions g/km) Urban Cycle 36.7 (7.7) Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0) Combined 47.1 (6.0) CO_2 emissions 140

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FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE NEW CHRYSLER GRAND VOYAGER RANGE IN MPG: URBAN 15.0 – 22.8, EXTRA URBAN 31.0 – 38.7, COMBINED 22.2 – 30.4. CO_2 EMISSIONS IN G/KM 247 - 302 G/KM.
MODEL SHOWN IS A CHRYSLER GRAND VOYAGER 2.8 CRD LIMITED WITH AN ON THE ROAD COST OF £33,000. PRICE INCLUDES ROAD FUND LICENCE (£400) AND FIRST REGISTRATION FEE (£55). CHRYSLER IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF CHRYSLER LLC. PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. (04/08).

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0-62 mph in 9 seconds with emissions of just 119 g/km CO_2. This extraordinary combination is possible thanks to a range of technologies called BMW EfficientDynamics which deliver an increase in performance together with a reduced impact on the environment. One small part of this programme is Auto Start-Stop. This standard feature switches off the engine when the car comes to rest and restarts it when the clutch is depressed, saving fuel and reducing emissions.

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Official fuel economy figures for the BMW 118d M Sport 5-door: Extra Urban 70.6 mpg (4.0 l/100km). Urban 52.3 mpg (5.4 l/100km). Combined 62.8 mpg (4.5 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 119 g/km.
Model shown is the BMW 118d M Sport 5-door at £22,870 including metallic paint at £440 on the road. On the road prices are based on manufacturer's recommended retail prices and include 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Prices are correct at time of going to press and subject to change without notice. BMW UK has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of information but does not accept liability for any errors or omissions.

Commute to town for free with green BMW

SOME car makers will trumpet their hybrids, others will spout the controversial merits of bio-power in the fight against global warming.

There is also hydrogen, but we don't have the space to go into that here.

But the message is getting through that a little effort here and little there may just be the way forward, which probably explains why this week's road test car has landed a string of 'green' awards.

These include New York International Auto Show 2008 'World Green Car of the Year' in the land of conspicuous gas-guzzling.

To be fair, the judges comprised 47 motor journalists from 24 countries so the award to the BMW 118d and the 'EfficientDynamics' package introduced across BMW 1-Series and MINI ranges, carries international clout too.

The BMW package allows recovery of energy otherwise lost in braking to recharge the battery, mostly sidelining the engine-sapping alternator.

Emissions and demands on power and fuel are also reduced by two further measures: electric power steering and 'Start-Stop'; the engine stops when the car sits in neutral – at the lights, say – and restarts when the clutch is depressed.

Furthermore, a gearshift change indicator is included to encourage economical motoring.

All of this enables the three and five-door 118d to record an impressive 62.8mpg on the combined cycle with CO2 emissions of just 119g/km, putting it into Band-B (£35/year) for Vehicle Excise Duty and qualifying for exemption from the London Congestion Charge after proposed revisions in October.

This last point suggests that a Kent-based commuter could actually take out a PCP (Personal Contract Purchase plan) on a 118d and run it for free from savings on the congestion charge and fuel economy.

Does this green paragon exact a penalty elsewhere though, commuting or not?

No. We borrowed a car from Broad Oak BMW, where sales manager Sam Pitchford confirmed a hefty take-up for the revised greener 1-Series, and soon found that its new environmental image had been seamlessly incorporated into the existing car.

Symbolically, our three-door hatch was in white and I found it hard to dish the dirt on it other than to remind myself that I still don't particularly like the styling, even if it works better for this body style than for the original five-door.

However, the car feels well constructed and, of course, handles beautifully in the 'BeeEm' tradition thanks to its front engine/rear drive balance.

Freed from some power-draining systems, the two-litre engine – the nomenclature suggests 1.8, but cubic capacity is actually 1,995 – has loads of power if you want to drive it hard. That electric steering is also precise with good feedback, unlike some.

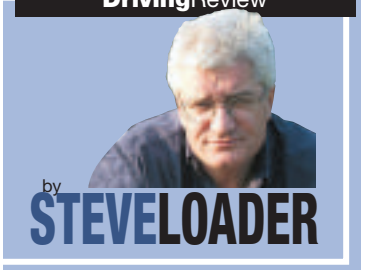
On the other hand, when you do want to cruise, the engine and smooth six-speed gearbox allow you do so quietly and frugally.

The rear of the car is still not the most spacious in its class and getting in and out of there could be better, even in the five-door.

The ride on run-flat tyres is also rather unforgiving even if, by losing the spare, weight has been saved and returns some space lost to the car's rear transmission.

But the 1-Series is now an even cheaper and more economical way into a premium brand.

DrivingReview



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BMW118d

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DrivingStats

- BMW 118d ES three-door £19,175
- Range: £16,185-27,205
- Garage stats: 4.15m by 1.97m five-door estate/MPV
- Powertrain: 1,995cc/143bhp four-cylinder turbodiesel driving front wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 130mph and 0-62mph in 8.9 seconds
- How green?: category-B (£35/year) road tax-119g/km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 62.8mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): *****
- Fuel tank: 51 litres/11.2gallons
- Insurance group: 11
- Warranty: three years/unlimited miles.
- Website: www.bmw.co.uk
- Rivals: Audi A3, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Mazda3, MINI, Renault Megane, Seat Leon, Skoda Octavia, Toyota Auris, Vauxhall Astra, Volvo C30 and VW Golf

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SHIFT_expectations

Finance subject to status terms and conditions, full written details on request. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers and all current Nissan consumer offers.

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A4, 1.9tdi 130 se estate, 2003, blue m with grey cloth, 67000 miles, £8950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 316i SE, 20521188, mystic blue, 25000 miles, £10000, Big Motoring World, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

PT CRUISER, 2.4 gt 5dr blue, 2005, 27672 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, blue, £7990, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

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hi jet, 11 1999, 1.3 efi drop side truck 49.000 miles ex council, £1995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

DODGE

CALIBER, 1.8 SE 5dr, 14/04/2007, cd player power steering electric windows, black, 5700 miles, £8499, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FIAT

GRANDE PUNTO, 28/09/2006, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 17226 miles, £7499, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 1.6 Zetec S 3dr (2005 -), 06/04/2006, cd player abs leather hood cover driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 32914 miles, £6999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, CDI Executive, 2005, trim: leather engine size: 2200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, grey, 33000 miles, £11995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

Accent 1.3, 2002, silver, 41625 miles, £2995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, 3.0 V6 SE, 2001, star silver, 53000 miles, £5000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

SEDONA, LS A Automatic Diesel, 2007, black, miles, £16995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY, 3 TDV6 HSE, buckingham blue, 4100 miles, £40995.0000, barretts land rover (Ashford), Ashford, 0845 3709763 (TRADE)

MAZDA

MAZDA 6, - 2.0 Ts 5dr, silver, 2005, 17000 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 2 previous owners, silver, £7989, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

E CLASS, E280 Avantgarde V6, 564461, remote central locking, full leather, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 17'' alloys, aluminium silver, 74000 miles, £6499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, Tf 1.8 Convertible, 997649, mg mgf tf 1.8 convertible mazda mazda maidstone drake & fletcher blue, 2002, 69000 miles, manual, petrol, 2 doors, 3 previous owners, blue, £4489, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

MINI

22006, silver, 7086 miles, £15995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.1 Black Hawk, 08, 100 miles, £6749, SMC Mitsubishi Erith, Erith, 0844 5762449 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, Sport, 2000 x, 2000 x-reg 75,000 miles, taxed until end june. mot until september. nearly new front tyres, power steering, abs, air conditioning, central locking, electric front windows. a very reliable car which has not let me down, selling due to company car. contact rob on 01634 232929, metallic red, £2200, Gillingham, 01634232929 (PRIVATE)

PEUGEOT

106, Independence, 2001, met green, 28000 miles, £2495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911 CARRERA 4, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £29950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 16v, 1993, blue, 125200 miles, £700, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

ROVER

200, 216 Cabriolet, 1997, grey, 0 miles, £1295, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3 VECTOR, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1900 transmission: automatic no. of doors: 5, pearl black, 34700 miles, £14995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

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LEON, 1.9TDI Stylance Hatchback 5dr, 08/2008, fog lights tinted windows climate control c black magic, 1, 000 miles, £14, 445, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

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IMPREZA, Gx Awd, gn52wgx, remote central locking, pair bag, abs, cloth upholstery, head restraints, colour coded body, cd player, radio, 16'' alloys, 4x4, blueblack, 40000 miles, £6499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

GRAND VITARA, 2005, graphite grey, 16000 miles, £8995, WJ King Vauxhall, Dartford, 01322 227581 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

CELICA, Vvti, 2006, red, 20000 miles, £11495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA, Energy 1, finished in star silver with black cloth interior automatic, black, £12495, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

GOLF, 1.6 S FSI 5dr [AC], gp06vjn, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, traction control, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, diamond black, 13444 miles, £9999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

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S60, 2.0 T Se 4dr Auto, 1019649, volvo s60 2.0 t se 4dr auto honda honda maidstone drake & fletcher silver, 2003, 45120 miles, automatic, petrol, 4 doors, 2 previous owners, silver, £6950, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **47-48**.

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Commercial vehicle feature

VAUXHALL has underlined its premier position in the van market with a slick line-up of 'Black Edition' concept models.

Finished in metallic black pearlescent paint, the Corsavan, Astravan and Vivaro specials highlight how important looks and image have become to some van fleets, operators and owner drivers.

Vauxhall has already had major success with high specification Sportive versions of models like the Corsavan and Astravan.

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Current UK economic pressures fail to undermine van market

BRITAIN'S light commercial vehicle market remains robust despite gloom and doom predictions about the national's economy.

This is a major reassurance since demands for vans and light commercials have long been a barometer for the overall state of the nation's financial well-being – they are regarded as the 'oil' in the machine.

According to market analysts at Manheim's there is also healthy demand and bidding for used stock – a sure sign of confidence.

The experts note that average selling prices fell by £444, from £3,675 during the 3rd quarter of 2007 to £3,231 during the first quarter of 2008, but followed a lengthy period when there was not enough vehicle stock in the market to satisfy exceptionally strong demand, especially during mid-2007.

Manheim commercial vehicles sales director Alex Wright said: "This latest LCV Market Analysis Report from Manheim reinforces our belief that the market has remained robust despite the recent economic uncertainties however, it is also clear that following two years of exceptional performance in the LCV market, fuelled by shortage of used stock and high levels of demand, a price re-alignment was inevitable."

Citroën van sister act

CITROËN is sweeping into the market with a radically changed small van line-up.

The first generation Berlingo – Citroen's most successful van model ever – continues as the 'Berlingo First' to avoid confusion with this smart new successor arriving in June from £10,395 (ex VAT) (pictured bottom).

It is being offered with a range of load compartment door options, including single or twin sliding side load doors and has a smart and versatile interior (pictured below left).

But the Berlingo sisters also have a new small sibling – the Nemo (pictured below) due in May and billed as the small van with the big heart.

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Model shown Dyna 3.5t 3 way Tipper. Dyna range starts from £11,995 plus VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and first registration fee. Model shown Hiace 280 2.5 Common Rail Turbo Diesel 95 DIN hp. Hiace range starts from £12,595 plus VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and first registration fee. Model shown Hilux Invincible Double Cab 171 DIN hp, 3.0 Common Rail Turbo Diesel. Hilux range starts from £11,495 plus VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and first registration fee. Prices exclude stated saving. *Health check/oil change at 10,000 miles /1 year. #Actual length range 2.335 and 2.780 metres. ^Load Bed Warranty may vary. Prices exclude stated saving.

Are you speed savvy?

MANY people driving a van have no idea of correct speed limits, according to a new survey for Vauxhall.

Much of the problem stems from limits on vans varying from those of cars; for most van drivers and operators full knowledge of appropriate speed limits is usually second nature, but many ordinary motorists hire vans for private use without knowing the facts.

Of those surveyed, a staggering 85 per cent believed that vans of all sizes obey the same speed limits as cars and car-derived vans.

Fact is that while vans with a gross vehicle weight of less than 2000kg, such as the Vauxhall Astravan or Combo, are subject to the same speed limits as normal passenger cars, larger goods vehicles not exceeding 7.5 tonnes, but over 2,000kg, are subject to lower speed limits on single and dual carriageways.

All non passenger-carrying vehicles of less than 7.5 tonnes share a maximum speed limit of 70mph on motorways.

The survey showed that of the 72 per cent of respondents who were incorrect in their knowledge of the correct speed on single carriageways, half believed they should not exceed 40mph while the remainder believed they were safe to drive at 60mph, the correct speed for cars, but not for larger vans which should be driven at no more than 50mph.

A similar view was held on dual carriageway limits; the correct speed for a van over 2,000kg is 60mph, but 28 per cent thought it should be 50mph and a further 24 per cent assumed it was 70mph – the same speed limit as in a car.

Results for motorway driving were split fairly evenly with 44 per cent correctly assuming it was the same speed limit as a car – 70mph, while 56 per cent mistakenly thought it should be a slower speed of 60mph.

Astravan carries on winning

VAUXHALL'S popular Astravan continues to be a winner, having added the title 'best car-derived van' at the Professional Van and Light Truck Awards,

The new 'gong' joins two other major successes – the Commercial Motor Tester's Choice awards 2007 and coveted What Van? Editor's Choice in 2007.

PV&LT's judges singled the Astravan out as having "better load capacity and payload than anything else in the category" as well as remarking on its driver appeal.

The magazine's publisher, Tim Campbell, said: "From over 90 vans assessed, the Astravan excelled among its rivals for its all-round ability and larger than average size, making it a very worthy winner."

Astravan production accounts for well over 12,000 vehicles a year from the Ellesmere Port plant in Cheshire, home of the five-door Astra hatchback. It is a significant contributor to Vauxhall (General Motors)'s position as the UK's biggest producer of commercial vehicles, with more than 100,000 LCVs built in the UK last year.

Toyota star's loyal following

OTHER van brands may dominate in sheer numbers, but the reliability and soundness of the Toyota Hiace panel van continues to enjoy a loyal following, particularly with owner-drivers/tradesmen.

The range was recently upgraded with the following:

- 2.5-litre D-4D common rail diesel engine revised to give extra power and pulling power – now available with 94 and 115bhp outputs
- Better fuel efficiency and cleaner emissions
- New look frontal styling
- Improved cabin trim and upholstery quality
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- New optional passenger front airbag.

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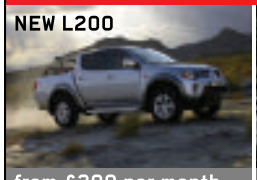
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More choice and options for 21st century van man

INTERIOR: The latest Toyota Hiace shows that vans are no longer the poor relations to cars in terms of driver comforts

by STEVELOADER

VANS have been transformed swiftly in recent years.

Specifications, comfort, performance, economy and safety are now closely in step with cars; van drivers are no longer the poor relations of the road and some of this may be due to premium brands such as Mercedes-Benz entering the fray.

Size options have also expanded – ranging from around 3m3 to over 17m3 – with far better access too; at least one sliding door is fitted as standard, with the option of a second.

Furthermore, users can now choose between rear wing doors or a tailgate, while cab doors are now being designed with a reduced opening angle to make it easier to grab the handle when the door is fully open and reduce the risk of the door swinging wide and colliding with a wall, lamppost or another vehicle.

Petrol power remains an option, but has been eclipsed by the extra economy and range of four and five-cylinder turbodiesel units, plus their additional benefits from extended service periods, more modest maintenance costs and longer lasting parts.

The desire and pressure to be greener means operators also favour them for their particulate filters, which filter harmful carbon particles from their exhausts.

Diesel engine technology also continues to transform vans, with the 'common rail' diesel type reducing engine noise and driver fatigue, while delivering optimum performance, even better economy and massive pulling power from low engine speeds.

Commercial vehicle manufacturers and users alike are also excited by the potential of a new alternative to common rail – unit injector technology, which supplies fuel at much greater pressure to boost efficiency and flexibility. Although still relatively new to the commercial vehicle market, the performance of these sophisticated power units is gaining widespread approval from customers and the press.

QUALITY CONTROL: The arrival of premium brands such as Mercedes-Benz with the popular Sprinter may have forced a hike in quality, comfort and safety across the van market

Five or six-speed manual gearboxes are usually standard, but some manufacturers now offer the option of automatic, semi-automatic or clutch-less transmissions to make driving easier for urban users. Already widely available in cars, the semi-automatic gearbox offers automatic or manual modes, while clutch-less transmissions perform more like a manual without needing a clutch.

On the safety front, most models now have the option of passenger, side and front curtain airbags, as well as the driver's plus all the driver aids available on cars such as ABS, traction control and even electronic stability control or ESP.

Rather like another ESP – extra sensory perception – that last feature can work even more cleverly on a van by detecting the effect any load in the rear compartment could have on the van's handling, although it cannot help if the vehicle is pushed beyond its limits.

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Kent group's 'bible for white van man'

VAN drivers can benefit from a new handbook released by the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association.

The FTA Van Drivers' Handbook is billed as "the essential guide to ensuring the safe, legal and efficient operation of vans and light commercial vehicles".

The 78-page handbook is designed to give the van driver a quick and easy reference guide with chapters on:

- legal requirements
- customer care
- defensive and green driving
- safe use of the vehicle
- drivers' hours and records
- licences
- offences
- speed limits
- parking and loading
- driving in towns
- motorways
- dangerous goods
- theft prevention
- driving abroad.

There is also a pull-out guide on the 'daily walk around check' – valuable guidance on what the driver should be looking for during a daily inspection of the vehicle.

An FTA spokesman, Lawrie Alford said: "Van drivers come in for a great deal of unfair criticism regarding driving standards. However, Department for Transport accident statistics show that the van is the safest vehicle on UK roads – on a mile-for-mile comparison, vans are involved in just 24 accidents per 100 million vehicle-kilometres.

"That compares well with HGVs at 39 accidents per 100 million vehicle-kilometres and with cars at 67 accidents per 100 million vehicle-kilometres – almost three times more than vans.

"The van is the ubiquitous workhorse of the UK economy, with versatile and novel variations of vehicle design providing mobile and economic efficiency, hence the spectacular growth in van sales in recent years.

"The majority of van drivers are not full-time drivers, but driving represents an essential element of enabling them to do their job. As such, the new FTA publication provides anybody driving a van with need-to-know information in order to keep them safe and legally compliant."

The handbook is available online from Shopfta at www.shop.fta.co.uk or by calling 08717 111111. Price: £6 for FTA members or £6.90 for non-members, with discounts available for multiple copies.

Toyota launches ultimate Hilux

FEW challenges are left for Toyota's Hilux, a pick-up that has toughed it out in the world's most extreme environments for decades and last year made history by becoming the first car to drive to the Magnetic North Pole.

To underline its reputation, Toyota has now launched the ultimate Hilux – the most powerful production pick-up model on the UK market.

With numbers limited to just 500 units, it also promises to be one of the most sought-after too.

It is equipped with the 3.0-litre D-4D engine that already features in the Hilux Invincible, but a Toyota Motorsport performance kit has boosted output to 194bhp and slashes the 0-62mph time from 13 to 10.5 seconds – 11.4 seconds for automatic versions.

The new Hilux is styled to reflect its lofty position in the pick-up market, with dedicated 15-inch alloys and stainless steel mesh grille. The cabin is finished in two-tone grey leather, with heated front seats.

Warrior class helps Mitsubishi's 4x4 conquest

MITSUBISHI has become the champion of the 4x4 commercial sector in the UK through working versions of the Shogun series of off-roaders and, latterly, the rise of the L200 series of pick-ups.

The L200 owes much success to take up by private buyers who like the rugged styling and special upmarket versions such as the Warrior and Animal (pictured).

The latest incarnation of the L200 has also given the vehicle a stand-out look against rivals, by using a distinctive curvaceous cab design allied with the 'working end' – the pick-up load area.

The best-selling Warrior variant has been revised too with an even higher specification – prices start from £16,049 ex VAT.

Mitsubishi's Shogun Commercial continues to underpin this workhorse sector of the commercial market too. Minus seats and with blanked out rear windows it can be both an impressive yet highly capable ambassador for companies needing to carry loads and equipment to awkward areas.

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Three firms at top of enterprising list

By TONY PATEY
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT rocketed to the top of the business league this week with not just one Queen's Award for Enterprise – itself a coveted accolade for any county outside London – but an incredible three.

Step forward Rochester–based BACTEC International, Westerham-based Aqualisa and Transmille of Tonbridge. BACTEC won its award for international trade with an outstanding export performance, and the other two were honoured for innovation.

The Queen's Awards, the UK's most prestigious and sought-after awards for business performance, are presented on the advice of the Prime Minister.

BACTEC, an explosive ordnance disposal and land mine clearance company, has seen a five-fold growth in earnings over the past three years to £11 million.

Formed in 1991, it has been directly involved with the disposal of more than 500,000 land mines and thousands of tonnes of unexploded ordnance.

It has cleared or verified over eight million square metres of contaminated land across 40 countries, and clients include overseas governments, the UN, and international oil, gas and construction companies.

Overseas projects include land clearance of unexploded ordnance in Laos, where a 250-strong team of Laotians and Cambodians is clearing the ground of ordnance for the exploration and exploitation of minerals, and work in Cambodia, Mozambique, the Far East and the Middle East.

Bathroom company Aqualisa's revolutionary technology has produced digital showers which have been hugely successful, mainly thanks to 'intelligent' features such as wireless remote control, which lets you switch on your shower without getting out of bed, so the temperature is right when you leap in.

The firm has been based in Westerham for 30 years and employs almost 300 local people.

Managing director Harry Rawlinson said: "The award is the culmination of over a decade's research and investment, backed by our fervent belief that digital technology is the future of the bathroom.

BRAVE: Award-winner BACTEC International, of Rochester, has helped clear more than half a million landmines since 1991

"The secret of digital's success is its simplicity. We live in an age when everyone is entitled to a decent shower. Every bathroom, whatever the budget, can benefit from the technology."

Transmille, although it has only around 10 employees, is a major global force in a technology which touches just about everything in our lives – it's at the forefront of the development of calibrator design and calibration systems.

Batteries, gauges in cars, even the calibration on the garage pump which puts petrol in the cars – the list is endless – all have to be accurately calibrated. And the firm is so good that it is one of the very few in the world supplying the technology, even to the Chinese and a big Far East market.

James Bailey, managing director, said that since the firm was started in 1997 it had grown year on year, and a secret of success had been supplying a full range of products which cover the whole electrical spectrum.

"We're proud to be one of the core of British firms coming up with ideas the world follows."

NEW TEAM: From left, Kevin Young, chairman Argyll Insurance, Alex Alway, group chief executive Jelf, Sam Mills, finance director Argyll, and Jerry Wilson, executive director Jelf.

Firm insures brand future

ARGYLL Insurance (Holdings) Ltd, insurance brokers and financial services provider, which has offices in Gillingham, has been taken over by corporate consultancy Jelf Group plc in a deal with an initial consideration of nearly £10 million.

The aim is for Bristol-based Jelf to use Argyll as a hub for further acquisitions and organic growth in the South East.

Argyll will retain its own brand and continue to operate from its existing offices.

Kevin Young, chairman of Argyll, said: "The insurance market is changing rapidly with widespread consolidation.

"It was important for me to secure the long term future of Argyll and, by partnering with Jelf, we will be able to achieve business as usual coupled with increased opportunities for staff and clients.

"I will remain as chairman to ensure that our clients continue to receive the personal service they value while also benefiting from new services such as healthcare, employee benefits and commercial finance."

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INTERNATIONAL: Martin Jewiss, John Sims and Jason Dodd are second-time winners

Creatif success

CANTERBURY-BASED New Creatif, the design and communication collective, recently scooped the international trade award for the second year running at the Channel Chamber's annual ceremony at Leas Cliff Hall.

The collective is made up of Martin Jewiss (MPJ Design), John Sims (Picture This Design) and Jason Dodd from Jason Dodd Photography.

In two years they have covered work for various companies all over France, their biggest client to date being French food company Autremer.

This involved a website, product photography, copywriting and design for the client which had to be done within a fortnight so Autremer could use the promotional items at a business show in Paris. And the food firm is now up for sale for a six-figure sum.

The collective has also hosted seminars in Dunkirk and Boulogne along with French marketing agency Clara Media; this was a significant part in them collecting the award.

Mr Dodd was also an official photographer for the 2007 Tour De France when it came in to the UK last July.

Earlier this month he was a finalist in the Invicta Chamber Awards Entrepreneur of the year category.

The trio, known in most business circles as the three musketeers due to their moustache-wearing antics at business shows and events, aim to make business promotion abroad a future priority.

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Pillory Barn lands new marketing campaign

PILLORY Barn Creative, based in Maidstone television studios, has announced several new business wins. It has clinched the marketing campaign for Hazlitt Theatre and the Changeling's summer performances of Shakespeare in a three-way agency pitch.

Summer director Rob Forknall's A Midsummer Night's Dream will be taking place across Kent at venues including Boughton Monchelsea Place, Upnor Castle, Port Lympne and The Friars at Aylesford.

Water firm springs to sponsor rally team

KENT'S oldest soft drinks manufacturer, the Silver Spring Mineral Water Company, has become an official partner of the Subaru World Rally Team in advance of the 2008 World Rally Championship.

Drivers Chris Atkinson and Petter Solberg will have Silver Spring drinks on hand.

"Rallying is a physical sport and very tough, especially on events like Mexico and Argentina where the temperature inside the car gets towards 30 C," said Atkinson.

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IN BUSINESS: Colin Harvey (left) and Mike Norrie, founders of newly created Castle Corporate Finance

Expert help getting your SME to succeed

CHANGE management is an operation that draws on every corporate skill in equal measure. Any business that has made major structural changes in the past – by selling-off a part of its operations or by making an acquisition to fuel growth – knows it can be a delicate and potentially confusing process.

Experience linked with knowledge can help, and this is where long-term colleagues Mike Norrie and Colin Harvey came in with an idea to make the process less fraught with problems for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Their new corporate finance house, Castle Corporate Finance, based in Tonbridge, aims to help clients achieve their corporate objectives by providing a bespoke, professional service.

Both have wide-ranging experience in advising business owners and have developed a straightforward, 'hands-on' attitude to business guidance.

Professionals from a wide range of disciplines have chosen to be linked with the company, so Castle offers an entrepreneurial approach, individually tailored to the needs of each assignment.

In fact, the team invests a considerable amount of time in understanding the needs of each project at the outset, to give clients an honest appraisal of the chances of achieving their objectives before making a commitment.

With expert skills in research, banking, accountancy and law, Castle's specialist team is fully independent of other professional firms and as such, is able to act as a reliable outsource for accounting and legal firms without their own in-house corporate finance specialists.

For example, the firm can help owner managers of businesses prepare for significant structural change, such as a sale to facilitate retirement or growing the business by acquisition of another company.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Small and medium-sized enterprises can now benefit from expert advice in the form of a new company. Set up by **Mike Norrie** and **Colin Harvey**, Castle aims to give business owners a 'hands-on' approach and honest appraisal of chances of achieving success

Here Mr Norrie (M) and Mr Harvey (C) talk to KOS Media:

Q *Which deals have you learned a lot from in the past?*

A (M) I have been involved in corporate mergers and acquisitions – so-called M&A – transactions for many years, across a variety of business sectors and through both good and tough economic conditions. I think one is always learning and each deal teaches us something new. Innovation is the key and finding a way round a seemingly intractable problem is a great challenge when there is a will on both sides to see the deal through.

Q *What was the catalyst to setting up Castle?*

A (M): I had my own practice for many years until the late 90s and Colin and I have since held senior positions in national accounting firms; however there remained an inherent desire to be masters of our own destiny and last year, we decided to go for it.

Q *How do you relax?*

A (M): In many ways. Running helps me to think, and for pure relaxation, taking invigorating walks, often with a pub somewhere along the way, or chilling out in the French countryside, where I'm able to immerse ourselves in the local culture, food and wine.

Q *Apart from the money incentive, what sort of reasons have owner managers given for selling up? Are they ready to be millionaires?*

A (C): There are many reasons. Retirement is the most common, the desire to reap the rewards of a lifetime's hard work. Sometimes, there is a realisation that the owners have taken the business as far as they are able to. In such cases, there can be an ongoing role for them to play in being part of a larger entity – a partial sale now and getting a second "bite of the cherry" later. I think most of our clients adapt to life after a successful sale quite well – some of them even start all over again.

Q *Businesses can grow too fast, what advice do you give to impatient entrepreneurs who want to go on a buying spree?*

A (C): Develop a well-considered strategy for the value it will bring to the existing business. Many acquisitions fail to deliver the expected results and this includes over-paying for the target and not considering how the newly acquired business will integrate with what they've already got. Make sure you get professional advice from a specialist firm like Castle.

Q *How do you relax?*

A (C): I'm also a walker. The Yorkshire Dales are a favourite venue when time permits, sadly not as often as I would like.

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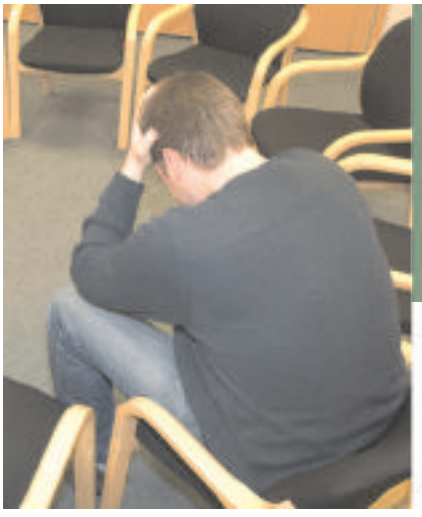

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Growing success for award-winning farm

ONE Kent farmer has been hopping for joy after winning two awards and appearing in a television program since the start of the year.

The Hop Shop, on Castle Farm in Shoreham, Sevenoaks, was a finalist in a national competition to find the 2008 farm shop of the year. It couldn't get much better until the farm discovered it had won the Environment Awards for Kent Business for Sustainable Business Management. Following this recent success, the farm's renowned lavender has appeared in Tales from the Country. The Hop Shop can be found off the A225 (Sevenoaks to Dartford road), halfway between the villages of Shoreham and Eynsford and easily reached from the M25 junctions 3 or 4.

Fisherman escape angling licence net

ROD sea fishermen are delighted now the government has abandoned plans for angling licences in the face of mass opposition from rural groups.

The sport is a popular pastime in areas such as Bexhill and Dover, and attracts tourists every year. Proposals to charge rod sea fisherman could have affected a million people in the UK.

The U-turn came in a written parliamentary answer to Martin Salter (Labour, Reading West) from the fisheries minister, Jonathan Shaw. Kent MP Shaw claimed that consultations with angling representatives were enough to convince him "not to proceed with enabling powers in the Marine Bill to introduce a sea angling licence."

Simon Hart, chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, said: 'The decision to enforce sea angling licences was always an unnecessary layer of pointless bureaucracy that would have raised no money to improve the conservation of fish stocks, and would have been completely unenforceable. The future of fish stocks around UK shores will depend on proper management of commercial fisheries, not charging anglers to fish in the sea."

More business news online
www.businessforkent.co.uk

Identify community needs and get funds

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

A RARE chance for rural communities in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Shepway, Swale and Thanet – they are being offered access to money to help improve local facilities with a special east Kent grant fund.

Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) administers the £500,000 East Kent Rural Communities Small Grant Fund initiative on behalf of the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust.

From that fund grants of up to £5,000 will be available to support projects based on local need that will make a real difference to life in rural communities.

In addition to the East Kent Rural Communities Small Grant Fund, communities that need to identify local issues are invited to undertake a "self-assessment" of what their community lacks by preparing a Parish Plan.

A Parish Plan is a document prepared by local people based on an assessment of local need and includes an action plan which can then be carried out by the community itself, public bodies (e.g. police, parish, district and county councils and so on) or businesses.

In England, 36 per cent of parishes in England have produced a plan since 2001, while in Kent only 15 per cent of parishes in Kent have produced one.

Parish Plans should: Reflect the views of all sections of the community, identify a vision for how the community wants to develop, recognise which features and characteristics are valued by the community, ascertain local problems and opportunities, list the actions needed to achieve the vision, and have local action plans to address social, economic, and environmental issues of concern to rural communities.

Action with Communities in Rural Kent is the Rural Community Council for Kent and Medway, founded in 1923, and a registered charity. Our aim is to excel in the provision of information and support communities in Kent to enable them to help themselves through action involving all sections of the community.

The Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust was founded in 1969 and makes grants to charities and churches in Kent with the aim of improving the quality of life for local people.

Further funding and support to assist this process is also available through Action with Communities in Rural Kent on info@ruralkent.org.uk or telephone 01303 850816.

Application forms and guidelines for both schemes will be available online at www.ruralkent.org.uk from May 12.

No horsing about when starting up

ANYONE wanting to set up an equestrian business needs a detailed, logically set-out plan – and the first point should be deciding on the 'type' of property you're looking for to suit your requirements.

Rural & Business Specialists, the rural and equestrian mortgage consultants, recommend you be flexible and look at several options. Competition is stiff and you need to look at alternatives that hold potential.

Ensure you have enough cash available – a deposit of 10 per cent is generally required at the point of exchange of contracts, and with lenders typically providing funds for up to 70 per cent of the value of the property, you may have to find the difference of up to 20 per cent.

SITE: Get the right property

It is advisable to undertake a full detailed business plan in advance of approaching a lender. Be clear and concise in the objectives and focus specifically on how the business will meet the mortgage repayments using transparent and robust assumptions.

Consider all fees which need to be paid. Research any new business to ensure that the enterprise is both viable and more importantly has planning permission to operate, and investigate building/development costs, planning permission, and stock etc for the business. Ensure that savings are available.

Get tax advice, consider assistance from a property search specialist and appoint a solicitor with expertise in agricultural and rural property conveyancing – the whole process needs expertise.

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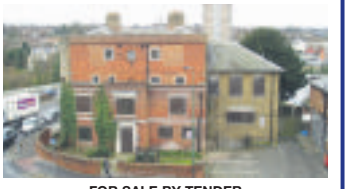

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Double award

TWO beers from Faversham-based Shepherd Neame – one home-grown and the other brewed under licence – have pulled up an impressive quart of medals in the premier international food and drinks awards, the Monde World Selection 2008.

Kingfisher, the Indian lager brewed on licence, won a Grand Gold Award with Palm Leaves in the category for Pilsen-style beers following scrutiny by industry judges. Spitfire Premium Kentish Ale, Shepherd Neame's premium ale, won a Silver Medal in the Pale Ale category.

They will both go on show at an exhibition and gala event in Vienna, Austria, in June.

Monde Selection is an independent international institute, and the world's oldest and most respected organisation in the field of quality selections.

Take care to find out the funding rules

By **LIZ RULE**
Pharon Independent Financial Advisers Ltd

THERE were some changes to long term care funding rules last October that many people may still be unaware of, but before explaining them it may be useful to recap on the issues surrounding local authority assistance.

If someone has assets over £22,250 then the local authority will provide no help towards the cost of nursing care and the individual or their relatives will have to foot the bill. If the individual has less than £13,500 then the local authority will pay. There is a sliding scale between these two figures.

Assets in this regard include the private residence. Forced sale or borrowing against this will not be invoked if a spouse or close dependent remains in the house.

There are however two allowances that are not means tested.

First, attendance allowance may be available for anyone needing assistance with things like getting in and out of bed, dressing and washing. This can be either £45.15 per week if assistance is only needed during the day or £64.50 if required day and night.

The second is the nursing care component, paid by the NHS in respect of the medical nursing they would have been responsible for had the person not been in a home. The changes regard this.

It used to be split into degrees of severity and there were three levels, with the top award being £139 per week and the middle and lower levels being £87 and £40 respectively. There is now just one band £101 per week.

If you are about to enter into care, or have a relative in care, it is always worth revisiting the allowances you can claim, as many people are not aware of what they are entitled to.

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OD: £2,500 ARRANGEMENT

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OD £1,000 ARRANGEMENT

CHELSEA BUILDING SOCIETY
RT FIXED **R%:** 5.84% **L:** 90% **U:** 02/07/2010
OD: £1,500 ARRANGEMENT

ABBEY
RT FIXED **R%:** 5.96% **L:** 90% **U:** 02/07/2013
OD: £1,499 ARRANGEMENT

OTHER

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U: 2 Years **OD:** £2,500 ARRANGEMENT

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U: 2 Years **OD:** £2,000 ARRANGEMENT

ABBEY
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Stone me it's convenient

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

HOSPITALITY and conferences are two words you always associate with The Holiday Inn Ashford North – winner of the 2007 IHG Quality Excellence Award and the 2006 IHG Torchbearer Award – and it's red-carpeting our readers with a really special offer.

This modern three-star hotel situated in a superb rural location off the A20 in Hothfield is offering KOS Media readers exclusive conference rates from £24 per person throughout May and June.

Its eight meeting rooms all have natural daylight and air conditioning accommodating up to 125 theatre-style. Wi-fi is available throughout all meeting rooms and the friendly and professional team can tailor delegate packages to suit meeting requirements.

To find out more about this offer, contact Hayley or Tania in the conference department on: 01233 714450 or email Hayley.webb@hiashford.com quoting HIKOS01.

Delegates can also sample the nearby The Hop Pickers pub, owned by the Holiday Inn Ashford North. It recently launched a unique new dining concept with the addition of a 'Stonegrill' cooking method.

The public house has undergone a refurbishment and added the new grill dining concept to its already popular carvery and traditional pub menu.

The grill offers a unique dining experience where cooking foods are served at the table on super-heated natural volcanic stones. These specially selected stones, chosen for their heat retention, are heated to 400°C in a purpose-built oven. Meals are presented within a protective ceramic tray and served sizzling.

Cooking on stones can be traced back to the Ancient Egyptians and Vikings. This unique dry cooking method uses no added fats and sears the food without burning, retaining a cleaner, purer taste that is not always achievable with conventional cooking.

General manager Joanne Stockbridge said: "The addition of the Stonegrill will really add to our menu offerings, as it is unique to the Hop Pickers in the Kent area and we are hoping to attract new diners, as well as offering something different to existing customers."

CONVENIENT: Up-to-date meeting rooms with wi-fi make the Holiday Inn a great place to bring together delegates for a conference from all over Europe

Hop Pickers chef Tyrone McGee is already a fan of the Stonegrill after using it at a previous role at Salut Diner, which became the first restaurant in the UK to have the grill. He says: "You have to taste it to believe it. It is a great bit of kit. I have never ever had a customer criticising it – not one."

Alongside, the new Stonegrill, the traditional pub menu also has a fantastic selection of choices including escalope of pork, Kentish roast duck and homemade steak 'n' ale pie.

Whether you are travelling via the Ashford International terminal, the Channel Tunnel or the ports of Dover and Folkestone, the hotel provides a convenient meeting point and the perfect choice for an overnight stopover.

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The high-ceilinged Banqueting Room with its chandeliers and fabulous views over the lakes and manicured fairways is a perfect space for private dinners and parties as well as business meetings and presentations.

The Oak Room, as the name suggests, has oak-panelled décor and makes for a more intimate dining experience or directors' meeting. The modern, flexible Heritage and International Suites boast plasma screens and access to an outside terrace.

These two rooms can both be divided to make smaller syndicate facilities, or opened up to form one large suite, seating up to 140 delegates. To guarantee impeccable service and ensure all needs are catered for, the function rooms are being upgraded to include discreet staff-call buttons and electronic signage. Wireless broadband is available throughout the clubhouse.

STYLISH: The London Golf Club has six meeting rooms with state-of-the-art technology and magnificent views

More details on meeting and events at the London Golf Club can be obtained by contacting the Meetings Team on 01474 875720, emailing meetings@londongolf.co.uk or visiting www.londongolf.co.uk.

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Choosing the right location for your conference or meeting can make or break your event. At Oakwood House the experienced Conference Team will ensure the seamless planning and delivery of your conference.

Its newly built John Wigan room is an elegant and spacious room with plenty of natural light, air conditioning, the latest audio-visual technology and all the modern comforts that you expect. The room can accommodate up to 300 delegates theatre style, or 200 cabaret style for all types of conferences or events.

They also have an additional 18 conference rooms of various sizes to accommodate all types of meetings. All of our conference rooms offer the benefit of free broadband wi-fi.

In addition to the conference space the mansion also has several function rooms suitable for a variety of corporate events, functions or product launches.

The catering offered at Oakwood is of a high standard, and the head chef uses only fresh local produce underlining its commitment to producing quality food and varied menus for customers.

There are 37 en-suite bedrooms all with beverage-making facilities and direct dial telephones. These rooms can be booked as part of a conference or independently for overnight accommodation. A full English or continental breakfast is included in a night's stay.

VICTORIAN MANSION: Oakwood House has an experienced conference team

The Courtyard Bar, situated in a stunning conservatory setting in the heart of the building, offers a spacious and relaxed area with an excellent selection of food, beer, wines and Costa coffee. Open to the public and with free broadband wi-fi it is an ideal area to meet business clients for morning coffee or lunch.

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PICTURE a medieval castle, a royal palace and an elegant country retreat and you have Leeds Castle. Set on an island surrounded by a moat in the heart of Kent, the castle provides peace, privacy and security for residential and day conferences, meetings, corporate hospitality and banqueting.

The historic surroundings and tranquil atmosphere of the castle boardroom and dining room are ideal for high-level meetings, seminars and conferences. Business guests have access to 21st century technology, and the castle now offers wireless broadband internet for its conference facilities and bedrooms.

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Leeds Castle is located just off Junction 8 of the M20, midway between London and the Channel Ports, with excellent links to the UK motorway network.

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For further information of Leeds Castle's corporate services and facilities, visit www.leeds-castle.com.

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Growth and output trends are going against the grain

SOME strange undercurrents of business activity in Kent in the face of economic uncertainty have been detected in a high level survey – job creation is high and firms are concentrating big time on mopping up backlogs of work.

Latest data from the South East purchasing managers index report signalled a dull performance of the region's private sector economy in March, with growth of output and new orders both slowing to the lowest rates since May 2003.

But input price inflation – the rate of rising prices on raw materials – eased back from February's high and the rate of job creation was the strongest for three months. According to the survey, produced for the Royal Bank of Scotland by NTC Economics, levels of activity in the South East also continued to rise at a moderate rate, although considerably weaker than in 2007.

Where growth of new business was detected it appears to have been linked to improved promotional activities and the launch of new products.

However, firms made considerable inroads into their unfinished business in March, as backlogs declined at the second-sharpest rate – down 6.7 points on the index – since the surveys began in 1999.

March data pointed to an increase in what firms charge for their goods, but the inflation of charges – the rate or acceleration of increase – slowed from the previous month's record survey high and was the weakest for five months.

Make some financial new year resolutions to boost cash flow

NEW financial year resolution for Kent firms – keep a tighter grip on cash flow.

That's the advice from Business Link in the wake of new research showing that ensuring prompt payment from customers is a key challenge for nearly half – 45 per cent – of companies in the South East.

"The old saying that 'cash is king' is as true now as it has ever been," said Business Link advice manager Chris Callander. "Money is no use to a business until it is in the bank – and it is poor cash flow that is the biggest single killer of otherwise viable businesses.

"Even companies that have never had any problem with cash flow or credit control need to have systems in place. The loss of a major customer or events over which they have no control – such as the current credit squeeze, a problem that has its origins on the other side of the Atlantic – can have serious knock-on effects."

Business Link recommends that companies should have at least some of the following credit control procedures:

- Carry out credit checks on new customers before supplying them
- Be clear right from the start about your terms of business
- Make sure the goods and services delivered are as specified – so there is no excuse to query the invoice
- Keep an aged debtors ledger so you can see at a glance who owes how much
- Two or three days before an invoice is due to be paid, phone to make sure payment is set to be made
- As soon as payment is due, send a statement
- After a fortnight, telephone or send a letter; if necessary follow this with a visit
- Consider charging interest on the late sum – as allowed under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998
- Make use of technology – send invoices by email (they won't get lost or held up in the post) and ask for payment by BACS CHAPS to prevent the risks associated with bounced, missing or lost cheques
- Carry out monthly cash flow forecasts, more often during leaner periods.

If cash flow forecasts show that money is likely to be tight in coming months, Mr Callander advises keeping your bank abreast of the situation and also considering options such as factoring and invoice discounting.

ADVICE: Chris Callander of Business Link recommends credit control procedures

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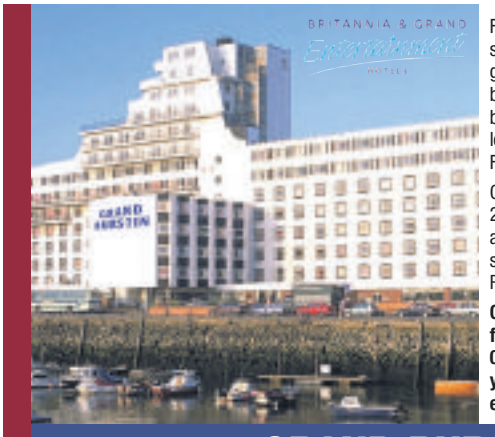

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BrandsHatch

Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

BELIEF: Stimson says the Gills can rise next season

I have no regrets, says Stimson

GILLINGHAM manager Mark Stimson believes he will have to bring in players in the summer, whether they avoid relegation from League One or drop down a division.

Stimson arrived at Priestfield back in November to replace Ronnie Jepson, who this week took up a role at Huddersfield Town with another former Gills manager, Stan Ternant.

After six months in charge, the former Stevenage Borough manager has brought in 14 players to help the club rise up the division. However, the squad are only really starting to gel, with the club sitting in the relegation zone. Stimson remains positive that he will be able to turn the club's fortunes around even if they drop to League Two.

He said: "I have no regrets and I was delighted when I was offered the job and I have enjoyed most of the times. Obviously I do not enjoy losing games, which we have done far too much this year.

"Most of the issues when I came here have been ironed out, which is good. There are still a few hanging about which I hope to sort out in the summer. Hopefully that will take care of itself and will help the club rise again next season.

"I have not thought about whether the squad is strong enough to bounce back. I will not think about that until the season is over. Like I say I am just thinking about what I have got to do to keep Gillingham from dropping out of this division. If we were to stay at this level we will have to introduce a couple more players and likewise if we go down."

Gillingham have the tricky trip to Leeds United for their final game of the season next week.

They are fighting a legal battle to try and regain points, which were deducted at the start of the season in a 15-point penalty for going into administration.

He added: "The Leeds situation is out of my hands. I think it would be hard to give them back their points because it would be unfair on the teams around us."

McGuigan's protégé

THE SON of boxing legend Barry McGuigan has emulated his father by winning the Ulster Amateur welterweight title.

Teenage boxer Shane McGuigan, who has only been in the sport for two years, overcame Cathal McCauley on points at Andersontown Leisure Centre in Belfast on Thursday.

McGuigan, who is coached by his father at the Aylesham Boxing Club near Canterbury, clinched the title exactly 30 years after his father.

Four trainers from the club were part of a travelling contingent of support for the young fighter.

Club secretary Bob Thompson said: "We are very proud of Barry and particularly Shane. He has had some tough times this season with an ear infection that kept him out of the ABA championships.

"I am so pleased he has done it. He has only been boxing at the club for two years but has come through the junior ranks and now finds himself fighting against the seniors and winning."

Addicks' £6m payback

CHARLTON Athletic will again give an estimated £6m back to the club's fans if they gain promotion to the Premier League in 2009.

The Addicks this week announced the extension of the club's free season-ticket offer for a second Championship campaign following the failure of Alan Pardew's men to qualify for this year's play-offs.

It means that supporters who secure their place at The Valley by the start of August, will get their season ticket the following campaign completely free of charge should the Addicks be promoted to the top flight.

Plc chairman Derek Chappell said: "The board felt that continuing the offer was the best way we could show our thanks to the supporters and encourage them to carry on their magnificent backing of the team next season."

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Picture: AIRWAVES DUCATI

JOINT LEADER: Despite a win and second place at Thruxton, Shane Byrne was unhappy not to claim a brace of victories during last weekend's meeting at Thruxton

Shakey sets stall out for title charge

Race ace still not happy despite dominant display

By TOM HOWARD

THE LEADER of the British Superbike Championship, Shane 'Shakey' Byrne, is hungry for more success even though he secured a win and a second place in the opening round of the series.

The Sheppey rider ended all the hype with a dominant performance at the Thruxton in Hampshire last weekend, with a pole position, a race win and a second place. Despite leaving the circuit joint leader of the championship with Honda's Cal Crutchlow, Shakey was not fully content.

He said: "You know what – I am not that happy with the results to be honest. I know that sounds daft but I was really up for a double win at Thruxton. The first race was tough but I managed to get the race win.

"The red flag in the second race cost me because I got a great start and went into the lead early on. I was pulling away when the flag came out. From the restart I got a bad start and it just took me too long to catch up."

Byrne is eager to secure the title this year and is fed up of reflecting on 2003 where he dominated the championship.

In the same year he won both races at Brands Hatch in the World Championship event as a wild card and has not ruled out repeating that performance this season.

He said: "I am really focused on trying to claim the British Superbike Championship, but if Airwaves Ducati do want to enter the world round at Brands Hatch, I would want to compete in the event. As I say, the British championship is my goal this year and I am fed up with people talking about five years ago. I want people to be talking about me winning the title this year."

Shakey's team-mate, Ashford-born rider Leon Camier, made a solid start in his first race since his season-ending crash in August.

An injured Camier battled through the field to secure fourth in the overall standings, with fifth and fourth-place finishes in the two races.

Maidstone's Scott Smart had a difficult weekend, finishing 12th to clinch a single point in the second race.

Elsewhere, Formula One hopeful Mike Conway will begin his battle for the GP2 title today in the opening round of the season at Barcelona.

Switched

The Sevenoaks racer switched teams in the close season and now is in the seat of Italian-based team Trident Racing. Conway believes the team can take him to the title and is hoping to follow in the footsteps of former champions Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton.

Also in action is Tonbridge racer Jay Bridger, who is looking to take the lead in Formula 3 National Class.

Bridger is competing in his first season of Formula 3 for Fluid Racing after a season in Formula Ford last year.

In the first round of the championship at Oulton Park last month, Bridger secured a second and fourth place.

This afternoon the 20-year-old will be racing at Yorkshire circuit Croft, as he battles to overhaul championship leader Andrew Mayrick.

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Picture: ADY KERRY

'England call-up is good news for spinners'

Kent star welcomes chance for bowlers to shine and says captain Rob Key is also ready for international return

BEING chosen by the England selectors this week in their initial 26-man Performance Squad for the upcoming international summer was another big boost for me.

Having felt I had made some significant strides forward during the winter, first with my form on the England Performance Programme trip to India and then winning a call-up into Paul Collingwood's senior one-day squad in New Zealand, it was good to know the selectors are still pushing me forward.

At this early stage of the season it is a good feeling to see your name in such a squad; it also means England are keeping an eye on your performances, and that's even more of an incentive to keep working hard and getting quickly into the new season.

It's been a bit cold for us spinners in the first week or so of the season, mind you, but it is interesting to see the England selectors have chosen four specialist slow bowlers – Monty Panesar, Graeme Swann, Adil Rashid and myself – in the Performance Squad, so spinners are clearly in their plans going forward into the summer.

It was also great to see Rob Key named in the squad, because he has worked really hard to try to get back into England consideration and he is a top-class batsman.

He's begun the new season in excellent form, and once again the work he did with his long-term coach Noddy Holder out in Perth during the winter looks to have paid dividends.

Rob scored a lot of runs last season to show he had got over his shoulder problems, and I think he has grown in stature as a batsman and as a person over the past couple of years. If Peter Moores is looking for someone new to come in at the top of the England Test order, or anywhere in the top five really, then Key would be a great pick.

Losing our first Friends Provident Trophy group match against Essex last Sunday was a big disappointment, especially after being outplayed by Nottinghamshire in the opening county championship fixture which preceded it.

But in both games we didn't bowl as well as we should do, giving our opponents too many four balls, and like last season – when we also lost our first couple of games - we paid the penalty for not getting out of the blocks fast enough. Notts seemed to be more ready for that first game than us, and their quicker bowlers were a bit better suited to the conditions.

Mark Pettini and Ravi Bopara both batted well for Essex last Sunday, but if we had prevented them from scoring 20 or 30 runs too many – which I think we really should have done – then their total would have been well within our reach with Martin van Jaarsveld also batting so brilliantly.

The other thing which came out of the first week was clear evidence that Azhar Mahmood is going to be a fantastic signing for us at Kent. His bowling is very smart, and his batting can be a real force because – as he showed in those first two games – he can hit the ball out of the park.

From a personal point of view, it was very worthwhile being involved in the MCC versus Sussex season-opener the previous week. I even managed to get three cheap first innings wickets as we bowled out Sussex on the opening day, which was a nice bonus for April 10. It was a real shame that bad weather prevented what could have been a good finish on the last day.

Let's hope, finally, that temperatures improve a bit from now on. Even Matthew Walker, who has been around for a while, couldn't remember enduring colder conditions in a match than those we had at Canterbury during the Nottinghamshire championship game.

I hope supporters realise, though, that players having hands deep in pockets doesn't mean we're not interested – it's just that we have those squeezy mineral handwarmers in our pockets and it's the only way you can try to keep your fingers from freezing!

• ***James Tredwell, the Kent off-spinning all-rounder, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.***

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Pink ball test to put new spin on cricket

FIRST there was the white ball and the coloured pyjamas of the 1990s, then the Twenty20 revolution at the start of the millennium, complete with paddles and reverse sweeps – and now we have the pink ball.

While cricket goes from strength to strength with the mutli-million pound Twenty20 tournaments in India, the game is constantly evolving, with the purist left seemingly far behind.

Now the invention of a pink cricket ball could be coming to a ground near you. It was trialled at Lord's this week in a game between the MCC and Scotland to see if it could be used as a rival to the white ball used in limited-overs contests.

Former Kent and England spinner Min Patel was part of the MCC team that used the pink Kookaburra ball, and he found positives in its first outing.

He said: "To be honest, once the novelty factor went it was no different to using the red ball. It didn't really do anything different than the usual red Kookaburra and didn't really discolour any more either.

FIRST OUTING: Ex-Kent spinner Min Patel uses the new pink Kookaburra during last week's MCC v Scotland game

"It swung for the first 10 overs as it usually does for the white Kookaburra.

"I think it will be a benefit in England during April when games are played under gloomy backdrops, but the ultimate test will be what it is like under floodlights."

The criticism of the white ball is that it discolours midway through an innings and becomes difficult to see by both players and spectators.

It is now mandatory to change the ball after 35 overs of an innings.

MCC head of cricket, John Stephenson, felt the pink ball experiment was a success, although it will need to be tested in harsher conditions.

He said: "The pink Kookaburra behaved like a white ball when I bowled with it. After 50 overs the ball was still very visible. A bit of the pink dye had come off it, but all it had revealed was the white coating underneath, so we've made some progress already."

MOTORSPORT
Shakey takes lead in British Superbikes title race **78**

CRICKET
James Tredwell on Kent's poor start to the season **79**

KEY BOWLED OVER BY BUG

Mystery illness keeps captain off field

Picture: ADY KERRY

ROB KEY FACTFILE

- **2002:** Made Test debut against India in Second Test, where he scored 17.
- **2002/03:** Toured Australia with England
- **2003:** Featured in the Tests against Zimbabwe
- **2004:** Played against West Indies where he scored 221 at Lord's in his first Test for more than a year
- **2005:** Dropped after series in South Africa but later named one of five Wisden cricketers of the year
- **2006:** Named Kent captain
- **APRIL 2007:** Subject of controversy after ball tampering affair in pre-season game with Nottinghamshire
- **AUGUST 2007:** Led Kent to victory in Twenty20 Cup
- **SEPTEMBER 2007:** Named captain of PCA team of the year after scoring 1,200 runs
- **APRIL 2008:** Named in 26-man England Performance Squad

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT captain Robert Key came down with a mystery virus this week that left him unable to move and meant he missed a county championship game for the first time in more than three years.

The skipper missed out on the game at Hove that finished on Saturday, after going down with an illness following the Friends Provident Trophy defeat to Essex last Sunday.

He said: "I woke up on Sunday and I couldn't move. I thought it was just the cold from the championship game and I managed to get through the Essex match, but once I was out it just seemed to get worse.

"I couldn't move my legs and I had no strength to even pick up a mobile phone. It was bizarre.

"I have had blood tests and chest scans but nothing appears to be wrong and I am starting to get some strength back in my legs, because I couldn't even drive before."

It is the first county championship game Key has missed for Kent since he played for England – more than three years ago.

He said: "I missed a few Twenty20 games last year but I can't remember the last time I haven't played in a championship game. It feels weird seeing Kent play a four-day game of cricket and not being involved."

The Kent captain received some good news this week after was named in a 26-man England Performance Squad.

It essentially means Key, together with Kent spinner James Tredwell, are part of England's plans and he will battle with the likes of Andrew Strauss, Kevin Pietersen and Ian Bell for a place in the Test line-up.

He said: "It is nice to have a good indication that I am in the selectors' thoughts but I have been in this squad before and it is not like playing for England. What it does is gives you a jolt to say that you are not that far away.

Improve

"It is a nice time of year considering I have had only two hits so far and it is a real confidence booster.

"I came into this summer after spending the winter working on ways to improve as a player and how to get in the England team. All of a sudden you are a lot closer than you thought, but it will all count for nothing if I do not score heavily this summer."

The 28-year-old batsmen last appeared in a Test match during the 2004/05 series against South Africa.

Despite taking over the Kent captaincy and scoring plenty of runs, he appeared to be falling behind in the pecking order behind the likes of Pietersen, Alastair Cook and Paul Collingwood. However, a successful campaign last time out saw him plunder 1,250 runs to put him back in the frame.

He said: "I never allowed myself to think I wouldn't get back, I always thought I would. I am always trying to be a better player and I am by an absolute mile compared to when I last played for England.

"If I have another chance I think I would learn from that."

Key admits his first go at Test cricket might have come too soon for him, but the experience of captaining the county has seen him develop.

He said: "Having been left out you have to work out how to do things differently. The captaincy at Kent makes you more responsible, as does being a father, and all that has made me a better player.

"It makes you grow up. Alastair Cook is already a mature batsmen at such a young age, but when I was his age I was nowhere near as astute as he is.

"If I got another chance I would try and prepare for it the same way as I would for Kent, and not make too big a deal of it. I would just understand how big an opportunity it is and give it my best, rather than die waiting.

"If I did get a chance I would like to open as that is most natural to me, but beggars can't be choosers, you have to get runs and that's what I didn't do first time."

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